



American Board of Otolaryngology Otolaryngology Training Exam

Serving the public and the profession since 1924

Otolaryngology Training Examination (OTE)

March 2004

As you prepare to take the Otolaryngology Training Examination (OTE), we would like to take this opportunity to explain the purpose behind the exam.

The OTE, consisting of 300 multiple-choice items, is designed to test your ability to recall basic science and clinical information, interpret clinical data, and solve clinical problems. The OTE is based on the Scope of Knowledge found on the ABOto [website](#).

The primary purpose of the OTE is to provide the resident and training program with an assessment of the progress of the resident's acquisition of basic and clinical knowledge. This assessment is then utilized by the resident to guide his/her personal academic program of study, and by the training program to maintain an appropriate didactic curriculum that meets national standards in otolaryngology. Additionally, the OTE provides the resident with recurring experiences in test-taking in the specialty, which may prepare him/her for the ABOto Written Qualifying Examination which is given at the end of residency.

The ABOto is firmly opposed to **Program Directors using this measure of resident performance as the sole form of assessment when evaluating residents for advancement or for any form of punishment**. Rather, it is appropriate for the training program to view the aggregate performance of its residents to assess the strengths and weaknesses of its educational program.

The ABOto website contains expanded explanations of information regarding the OTE as well as other pertinent information for otolaryngology residents. Residents are urged to become familiar with the information on the [website](#).

Please feel free to contact [Tamara Jackson](#) in the ABOto office with any questions or concerns about the OTE.