



“TOUGH STUFF” VIGNETTES

In the pages that follow are 95 “tough stuff” vignettes. As described in the Preface, these have been culled from years of teaching Board review and practicing gastroenterology and hepatology and have been iteratively reviewed and vetted with our fellows at UCLA. As you go through these vignettes, keep the following points in mind:

- These are generally difficult. That is by design. You may nonetheless know the answers to many of the questions in these vignettes—a sign that you are well prepared for the exam. But if you cannot get them all right, that is fine, too. That’s the whole point of this book—to ensure that you’re gaining incremental information, not just reviewing content you already know. Keep in mind, however, that for every tough question that’s in this book, there will be a bunch of “gimmies” on the exam. The entire Board exam won’t be full of “tough stuff” questions. So don’t get demoralized if you can’t answer all of the questions in this book correctly. Rest assured that you already know most of the “gimmies” just by virtue of paying attention and learning during your clinical experiences.
- These are in completely random order—there is no explicit rhyme or reason. See the Preface for our rationale for this setup.
- The vignettes appear on one page, followed by one or more open-ended questions. The answers are provided on the next page. Before you turn the page, take a moment to really think about the answers. Even if you’re not sure of an answer, at least take a moment to think about the potential differential diagnosis, or other information you might need to better answer the question. This form of active learning is more useful than merely flipping the page and reading the answer. Seriously... don’t just flip the page until you’ve given the vignette at least a nanosecond of thought. The answer will be more meaningful if you’ve first struggled a bit to think through the vignette.