

My Study Strategy for Clerkship

Eddie Guo

October 14, 2024

General Resources

These are resources that I found useful for all clerkship rotations.

1. *UpToDate and DynaMed*: For quick reference, especially handy for clinical algorithms and medication dosing. Also great for deeper dives into epidemiology, pathophysiology, presentation, management, and relevant clinical trials.
2. *Toronto Notes*: A compact review of all major topics in med school. It's a great review resource for clerkship exams.
3. *MDCalc*: Super useful for clinical decision tools and calculators (e.g., CHA2DS2-VASc, 4Ts).
4. *MD on Call*: An iOS app that provides a quick reference for common things you might be called for (e.g., tachycardia, hyponatremia). It's a great resource for on-the-fly reference. It also has common questions to ask when you are called about a patient.
5. *Firstline*: Provides location-specific antibiograms and guidelines for common infections. It's a great resource for antibiotic selection.
6. *Touch Surgery*: A great app for learning common surgical procedures. It provides step-by-step instructions and 3D models of the procedures.

I also found it helpful to read clinical guidelines for common conditions (e.g., heart failure, osteoporosis, stroke). For specialties I was interested in, I would search up and read landmark clinical trials, condition-specific papers (e.g., review paper on WHO brain tumour classification, approach to elevated intracranial pressure), and read relevant sections in specialty-specific textbooks.

Specific Anki decks I used:

1. General decks:

- (a) AnKing: Comprehensive deck for Step 1 and Step 2CK
- (b) Canki: Canadian Anki deck for MCCQE Part 1
- (c) Mehlman Medical
- (d) Mehlman HY Arrows - VerifiedSmoothBrain
- (e) The DIP Deck (Divine Intervention Podcast)

2. Specialty decks:

- (a) HoggieMed USPSTF
- (b) Brand Names
- (c) Surgical Instruments
- (d) AnKore for ABR Diagnostic Radiology Core Exam

(e) Surgical Recall

(f) Dura Deck v2

(g) Jeff Deck: Neurosurgery Sub-I

(h) Thomas Jefferson AANS Neurosurgery Deck

3. Anatomy:

(a) 100 Concepts Anatomy

(b) Netter Better

(c) University of Michigan - BlueLink Atlas

4. Internal Medicine:

(a) Critical Care Medicine

(b) Atlas of Auscultation

(c) The Only EKG Deck You'll Ever Need

Exam Strategy

My approach was pretty simple: Anki to retain material, UWorld Step 2CK QBank for practice, and Toronto Notes for review. Throughout the rotation, I would read around patient cases on UpToDate, textbooks, and guidelines. I also made a note of common site-specific management protocols (e.g., blood pressure parameters for certain conditions).