Approach to Studying for STEP 2

- For STEP 2 there are seven kinds of questions, which are listed below. To do well on STEP 2, select the major diseases/symptoms from each discipline and write out the answers to the questions. Keep the answers short; study from these notes.

**Seven types of questions**

1. (50%) Signs and Symptoms are given, what is the disease?
2. (20%) Signs and Symptoms are given, what is the next step in patient management?
3. (10%) Signs and Symptoms are given, what is the next diagnostic procedure?
4. (10%) Drug treatment (antibiotics and psychiatry), drug contraindicated and side effects.
5. (5%) What is the pathophysiology of a disease? (Borders on basic science questions).
6. (5%) What % of ___ will get this disease? or What is the most common ___?
7. (5%) Differentiate one diagnosis from a similar diagnosis, or how do you differentiate ___ from ___.

- Just general reading is not as effective as focused review using a source like the Lange book: "Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment" as it is very direct in its answers to the major questions.

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- Remember that at LEAST 15 clinicians have to agree on the question and the correct answer, so the questions will be on common diseases & disorders and the answers will be management or treatment that is accepted practice.

- The CORRECT answer is what you SHOULD do! Not necessarily what the residents do.

- Divide your total study time equally between reading and doing practice questions.