



Fellow of the European Board of Vascular Surgery – FEBVS
Academic Paper

Introduction

The purpose of the academic paper is to assess your ability to assess a scientific article. There are many different type of papers, but for the purpose of the exam we use the following types of articles; (1) randomised clinical trials, (2) systematic reviews / meta analysis and (3) retrospective studies.

For some candidates this format of discussing an academic paper might be very new. It requires knowledge and a structured approach, which will take time and effort.

We have noted that the level of statistical knowledge is variable and we would recommend that you focus some of your learning around basic statistical questions.

Top Tips

As the exam is run in English it is very important to practise this part of the exam with a colleague who has the language skills. All European countries are represented on the UEMS section and Board of Vascular Surgery and you should utilise their contacts to facilitate the delivery of education around the academic paper.

In the first instance it might be appropriate to acquire (1) the structure of the paper analysis and (2) basic statistics in your native language and then focus on delivery the same information, but in English.

The exam

You will be given 25 minutes to read the paper and you will have an opportunity to make notes on paper and or highlight the important sections on the paper. It is important that you bring a pen and or highlighter to the exam.

The academic paper will be assessed over 20 minutes. You will be assessed by two examiners who will mark you independent of each other. The examiners will use a series of marking descriptors to guide the mark. (See marking descriptors).

Depending upon the type of paper the examiners will take you through a series of Powerpoint slides with 1-2 questions per slide.