



Exam studying tips section of the CCS Website

How to prepare a summary that will be useful for exams preparation – where to start?

Prepared by Trainee Website Working Group

The purpose of this section of the website is to motivate trainees to willingly share useful learning material with their peer colleagues in order to be successful throughout the cardiology rotations and to be fully prepared for the Royal College Certification Exams and future clinical practice.

Summaries are useful tools that contain all the important information on a designated topic that you need to know for your exams, as well as in your future practice as a cardiologist. They can be used as a complement to your readings or as practical tools to look at prior to your board exams.

The content of the summaries available on the CCS website – *members-in-training section* is derived from main references used throughout your cardiology residency, including the textbook of Heart Disease by Braunwald *et al.*, reviews from important journals, guidelines from the different cardiology Societies (ACC/AHA, CCS, ESC), etc.

Here is a template of the different sections that could be included in your summary for a given topic. Although, remember that this only serves as a “backbone” to help you create **YOUR OWN SUMMARY**.

Template of a topic / pathology review:

- Incidence of the disease
- Pathophysiology of the disease
- Etiology of the disease
- Clinical symptoms and physical findings related to the disease
- Differential diagnosis
- Investigations – non invasive and invasive modalities (sensitivity and specificity of each modality), main findings from each modality allowing the diagnosis of this disease, guidelines recommendations
- Treatments – mechanisms of drugs, devices - guidelines recommendations (differences between the Societies)
- Include important study results related to this disease (if relevant)
- Prognosis
- Any other pertinent information can be added to enrich the summary

Key elements

- You should cite **all the references** used to write your summary – incorporate them throughout the summary and/or at the end
- Images or tables from references **cannot** be directly inserted in summaries do to copyright issues
 - You can put table or image references in your summary or create your own tables or drawings
- **You will be recognized as the author of the topic related to your summary and your name will be included as the editor of this topic. Since this process is peer-reviewed, having a topic published on our website can be added to your CV**