

Analysis of Orthopedic In-Training Examination (OITE) by Subsection From 2017-2022 with Comparison to ABOS Part 1 Certifying Examination

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INTRODUCTION

In light of recent efforts of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons (ABOS) to align the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination (OITE) with the Part 1 Certifying Exam, this study assessed each section of recent Orthopaedic In-Training Examinations from 2017-2022 and compared content between the OITE exam and the ABOS Part 1 exam outline.

METHOD

In light of recent efforts of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgeons (ABOS) to align the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination (OITE) with the Part 1 Certifying Exam, this study assessed each section of recent Orthopaedic In-Training Examinations from 2017-2022 and compared content between the OITE exam and the ABOS Part 1 exam outline.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The top content domains on the OITE from 2017-2022 were trauma (13.6%), basic science (12.2%), and pediatrics (11.8%). The most cited references from OITE questions were: Journal of American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery (21.7%), Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (19.4%), and Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma (10.3%). The breakdown of topics of OITE questions was compared to the published blueprint for the ABOS Part 1 certifying examination. There were four content domains (spine, basic science, oncology, and foot and ankle) that fell in line with the proportion of content distribution suggested on the ABOS Part 1 blueprint, while the other six fell outside of the range of proportions.

Percentage difference of total question distribution between ABOS Blueprint and Current Study				
Total question distribution%	Current Study		ABOS Blueprint	Percentage difference
Adult Reconstruction	11.60%	Joints	3.5-10.5%	9.95%
Pediatrics	11.80%	Pediatrics	3.5-10.5%	11.66%
Sports	6.60%	Sports	7.75-16.25%	16.03%
S&E	9.90%	S&E	12.75-35.25%	25.17%
Trauma	13.60%	Trauma	3.5-10.5%	25.73%
Hand	8.00%	Hand	17.75-46.25%	75.73%
Spine	10.10%	Spine	6.75-12.25%	Within limits
Basic Science	12.20%	General principles	10-21%	Within limits
Oncology	8.50%	Tumor	3.5-10.5%	Within limits
F&A	7.70%	F&A	3.5-10.5%	Within limits

*Bold indicates the current study percentages fall outside the ABOS Part I blueprint established values.

Table 1: Distribution of OITE content with comparison to ABOS Part 1 certifying exam blueprint demonstrating topics which fall in line with the blueprint and percentage difference between OITE topics and ABOS Part 1 blueprint.

CONCLUSION

In a comprehensive review of recent OITE examinations, the most common content categories were trauma, basic science, and pediatrics. Four of the ten content categories constituted a proportion of OITE questions that fell within the range provided in the ABOS Part 1 blueprint. This study suggests ongoing efforts by the AAOS and ABOS to align content distributions on their respective exams.

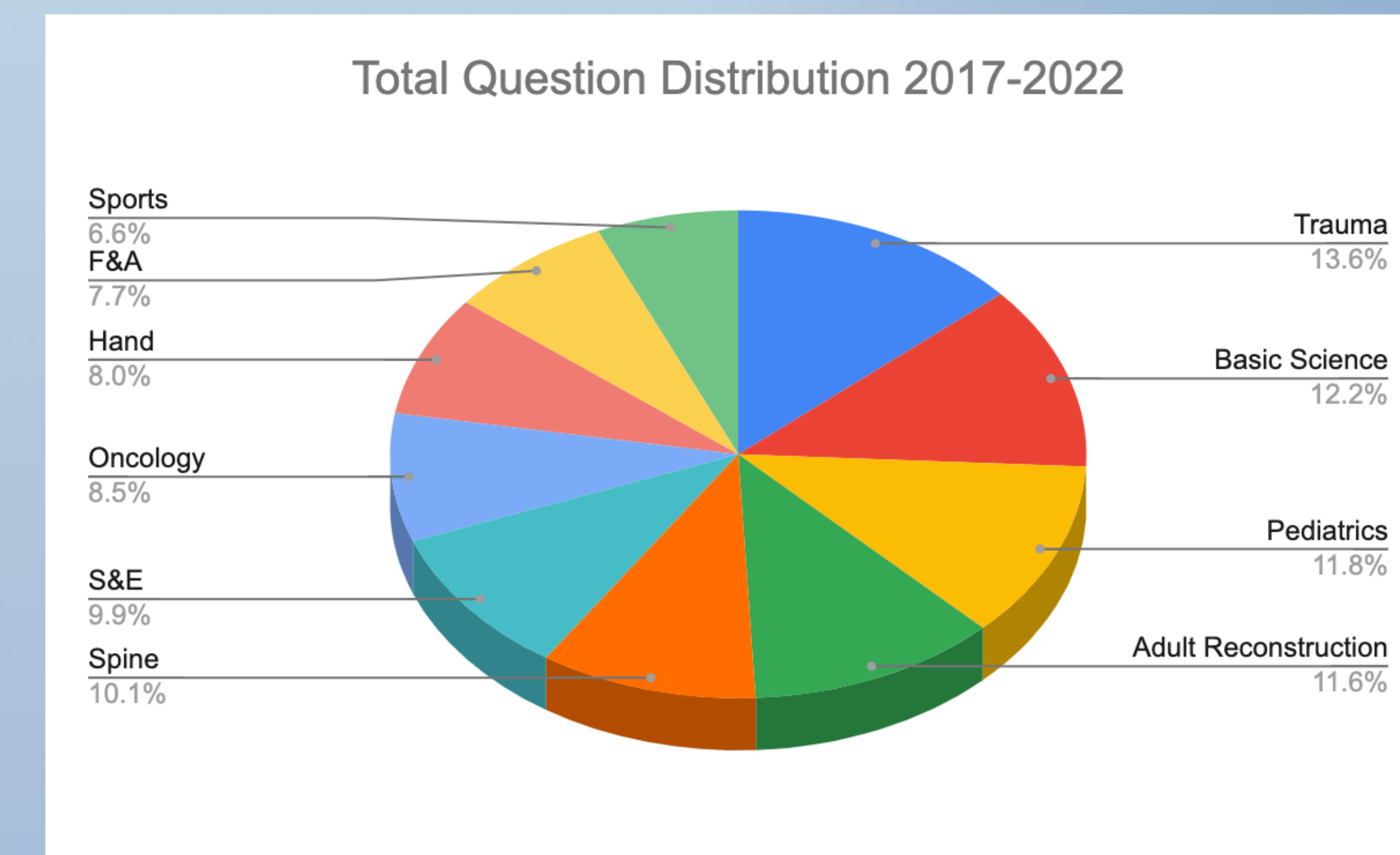


Figure 1: Distribution of question topics on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination from 2017-2022.

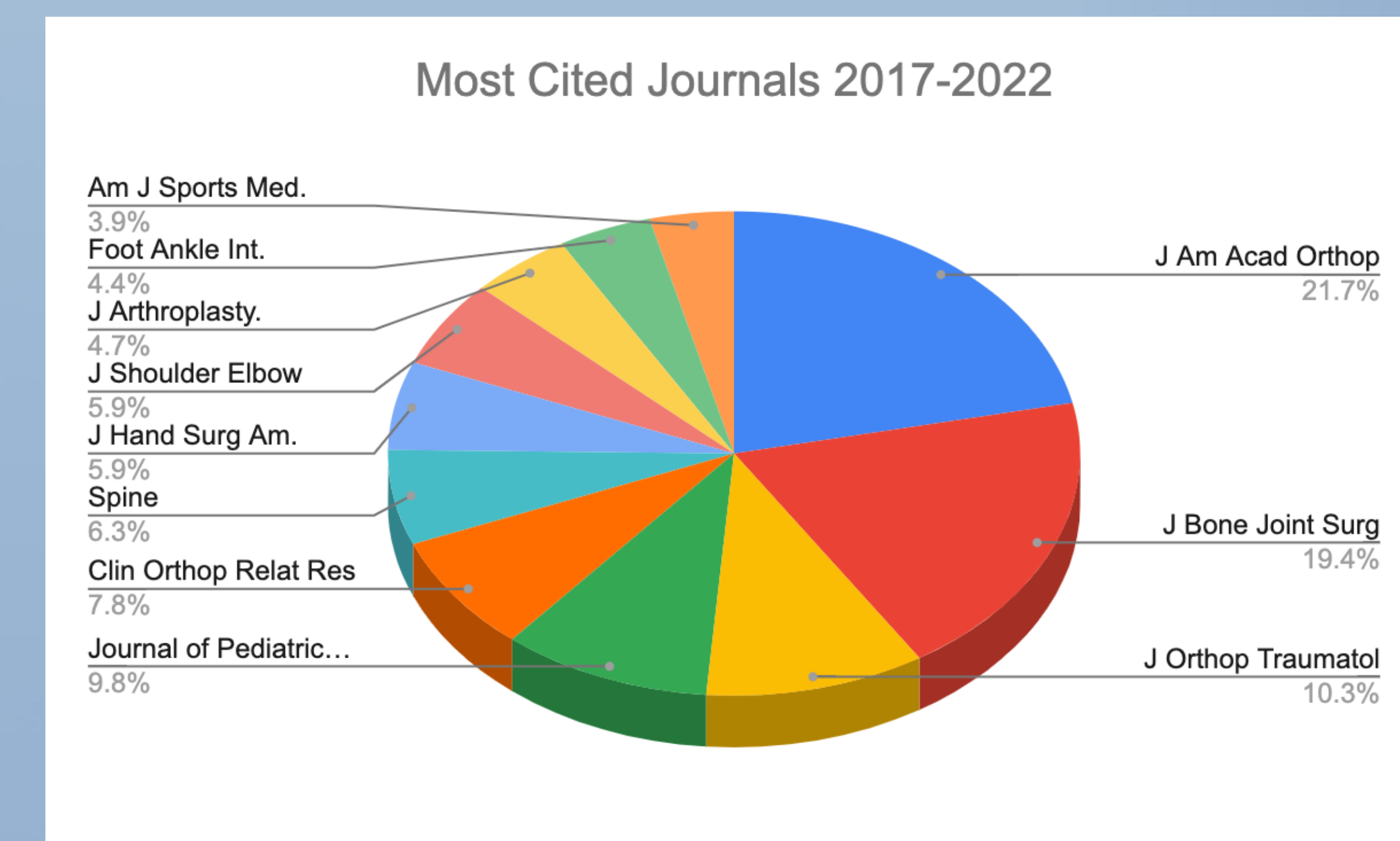


Figure 2: Most cited journals on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination from 2017-2022