



Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Exam: Pearls to Passing

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NO FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES OR CONFLICTS

Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Exam: Pearls to Passing

- Requirement to sit for the American Board of Surgery's Vascular Qualifying Examination.
 - Must have documentation of passed RPVI when applying to the Certifying Exam.
 - If Qualifying Exam applicants already have RPVI certification, it must be submitted with the initial application



- Required for completion of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Residency and Fellowship
- Previously offered by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography- ARDMS
- Physician-centric companion council, the Alliance for Physicians Certification and Advancement – APCA
- Available all year round
- If not passed, 60 days to retake

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Application Process

- 1- Apply with time !! review APCA website content and confirm eligibility and requirements
- 2- Complete your supporting documentation and letters
- 3- RPVI online application
- 4- Need valid medical license
- 5- Patient Log
- 6- Obtain examination confirmation letter once approved



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Timing and Practice

- Be timely and take your time preparing !
- Plan to take the test as early as possible during your training
- Test available all year, put in your calendar and don't procrastinate
- Set time aside to study and practice questions
- Take advantage of lab vascular lab technologists and outpatient clinic time
- Question banks and Prep Test Taking

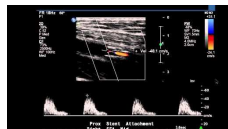
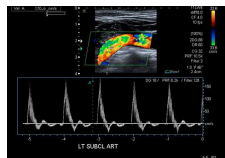


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Question Format And Duration

- Assessment of knowledge, skills and abilities in the areas of anatomy and hemodynamics of cerebrovascular, venous, peripheral and abdominal blood vessels.
- Four hour hours, 185 multiple-choice questions
- The exam is offered year-round at Pearson VUR testing centers.



• Question format

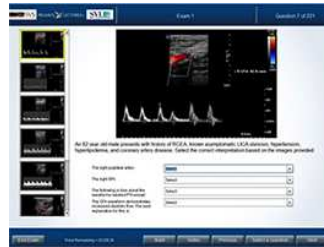
1. Hotspot questions: Individual image, use cursor to mark correct answer directly on image
2. Picture Archive and Communication Simulation - PACS

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Question Format And Duration

- PACSim Items – Picture Archive and Communication Simulation
- RPVI Exam Simulation Program
 - Determines level of preparedness to sit for the APCA RPVI exam, details areas of content weakness as well as determining how your test taking skills will affect your score.
- Society for Vascular Surgery
- Society for Vascular Ultrasound and Pegasus Lectures
- Simulates an interpretation workstation experience relevant to actual present-day medical practice
 - Brief clinical history
 - Clinical images



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<https://pegasuslectures.com/rpviFAQ.php>

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Patient Log

To prove vascular interpretation experience in a clinical diagnostic setting.

- 500 cases interpreted over a minimum of one month within the preceding 36 months of application submission
- No more than 100 cases may be didactic or simulated cases
- Distributed over the following testing areas with no more than 50% coming from one particular area:
 - Carotid duplex ultrasound
 - Transcranial Doppler
 - Peripheral arterial physiologic testing
 - Peripheral arterial duplex ultrasound.
 - Venous duplex ultrasound.
 - Visceral vascular duplex ultrasound.

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Content

RPVI PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1ST 2021

1	Cerebrovascular	Extracranial Carotid Intracranial Carotid	15%
2	Abdominal	Aortoiliac Liver Mesenteric Renal	15%
3	Peripheral Arterial – Duplex Imaging	Bypass Graft Dialysis Access Interpretation of Duplex Imaging Postoperative Endovascular Intervention	15%
4	Peripheral Arterial – Physiologic	Ankle Brachial Index/Pulse Volume Recording Digital Evaluation	20%
5	Peripheral Venous	Vein Mapping Venous Thrombosis/Obstruction Venous Insufficiency Testing	20%
6	Laboratory Technology and Operations	Patient Care Physics and Instrumentation Quality Assurance	15%

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<https://www.apca.org/physicians-vascular-interpretation-examination-content-outline/>

Content

RPVI PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1ST 2021

1	Cerebrovascular	• Interpret extracranial and intracranial ultrasound studies	15%
2	Abdominal	• Interpret aortoiliac ultrasound studies • Interpret mesenteric ultrasound studies • Interpret renal vascular studies	15%
3	Peripheral Arterial – Duplex Imaging	• Interpret peripheral arterial duplex studies • Interpret bypass graft and stent ultrasound studies • Interpret dialysis access graft ultrasound studies	20%
4	Peripheral Arterial – Physiologic	• Interpret physiologic arterial studies	15%
5	Peripheral Venous	• Interpret vein mapping studies • Interpret venous duplex studies for thrombosis/obstruction • Interpret venous insufficiency studies	20%
6	Laboratory Technology and Operations	• Physics and Instrumentation • Patient Care and Quality Assurance	15%

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<https://www.apca.org/physicians-vascular-interpretation-examination-content-outline/>

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Content

Laboratory Technology and Operations

- Physics and Instrumentation
- Patient Care and Quality Assurance

6.	Laboratory Technology and Operations 15%
6.A.	Physics and Instrumentation
6.A.1.	Identify bioeffects (e.g. cavitation, tissue heating)
6.A.2.	Modify output power following ALARA principle
6.A.3.	Recognize artifacts
6.A.4.	Identify pulsed wave (spectral) Doppler waveform characteristics
6.A.5.	Identify color Doppler waveform characteristics
6.A.6.	Identify power Doppler waveform characteristics
6.A.7.	Identify continuous wave Doppler waveform characteristics
6.A.8.	Identify gray-scale characteristics
6.A.9.	Select appropriate transducer for requested examination
6.B.	Patient Care and Quality Assurance
6.B.1.	Apply generally accepted infection control precautions and disinfectant techniques
6.B.2.	Recognize and communicate critical findings to referring provider to facilitate appropriate and timely clinical management
6.B.3.	Participate in quality assurance program (e.g., providing feedback regarding acquisition technique, determine agreement between preliminary and final reports)
6.B.4.	Correlate findings with adjunct imaging modalities
6.B.5.	Assess study indications to ensure appropriateness of selected test
6.B.6.	Calculate specificity, sensitivity, predictive value, and accuracy to compare with a referenced standard

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Study Materials and Resources

- [Society of Vascular Surgery](#)
- [Society for Vascular Ultrasound](#)
- [Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography](#)
- www.apca.org

Test Prep:

- **Noninvasive Vascular Diagnosis: A Practical Guide to Therapy.** Ali F AburAhma, John J Bergan
- **Strandness's Duplex Scanning in Vascular Disorders:** R Eugene Zierler, David L Dawson
- **Introduction to Vascular Ultrasonography:** Zwiebel, Pellerito
- Pegasus Question Bank and Simulation Test

Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) Exam: Pearls to Passing

Scoring

- PASS or FAIL
- Scaled score – 300-700
- Score of 555 is required to pass

Pass rates for the RPVI examination

2020:

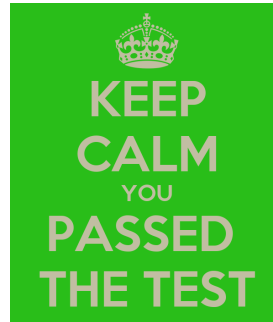
First-time takers: 90%
Overall: 88%

2019:

First-time takers: 92%
Overall: 89%

2018:

First-time takers: 83%
Overall: 80%

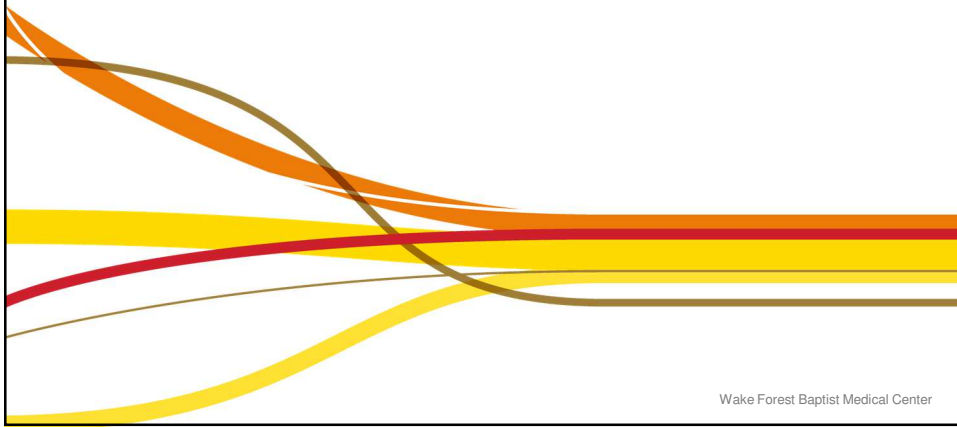


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Maintenance of Certification

- Renewal APCA annually by December 31st of each year
- Minimum required number of APCA-approved continued medical education credits during your three year CME period
- CME audits

THANK YOU



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