

## 2025 Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology MOCA Minute High Priority Topics Report for Subspecialties

Listed below are the 10 most difficult adult cardiac anesthesiology topics of 2025 based on the performance of diplomates maintaining an Adult Cardiac Anesthesiology certificate

### Cardiothoracic Diseases (Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, and Clinical Management)

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
1	Postimplantation syndrome is a complication that can occur after endovascular aortic repair and is defined as a noninfectious systemic inflammatory response that presents with fever and leukocytosis; treatment with antibiotics is not indicated.	XII.B.2. Thoracic Vascular Disease	400-449	1

## Patient Evaluation

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
2	Calcium score via multidetector CT can help distinguish between pseudosevere and severe aortic stenosis in patients with indeterminate grading of aortic stenosis and normal stroke volume index.	XII.C.1. Noninvasive Cardiovascular Evaluation	250-299	3
3	Postpericardiotomy syndrome, a constellation of symptoms that include fever and pleuritic chest pain arising from pleural and pericardial inflammation, is a nonischemic cause of ST elevations after cardiac surgery.	XII.C.1. Noninvasive Cardiovascular Evaluation	300-349	3
4	Preoperative hemoglobin optimization for patients with renal insufficiency and anemia prior to cardiac surgery incorporates treatment with iron and erythropoietin. Prophylactic PRBC transfusion is not recommended.	XII.C.3. Pre-anesthetic Evaluation and Preparation of Adult Cardiothoracic Patients	350-399	0

## Perioperative Imaging and Monitoring

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
5	Indocyanine green has been reported to increase cerebral oximetry readings when used during carotid endarterectomy surgery.	XII.D.6. Cerebral Oximetry	150-199	0
6	Transfusion is indicated for the following: hemoglobin less than or equal to 7.5 g/dL, platelet count less than $50 \times 10^9/L$ in the absence of excessive bleeding and platelet inhibitors, and fibrinogen levels less than 150 mg/dL.	XII.D.8 Coagulation	350-399	0
7	The oxygenator arterial outlet blood temperature is the best surrogate for cerebral temperature during CPB (class I recommendation).	XII.D.9 Temperature	350-399	0

## Pharmacodynamics and Pharmacokinetics

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
8	It is recommended that non-emergent heart surgery for patients taking dual antiplatelet therapy be scheduled at least 7 days after cessation of prasugrel.	XII.E.1. Preoperative Medications	350-399	0

## Devices

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
9	Complete heart block, also known as third-degree atrioventricular block, is a pacemaker-dependent rhythm. The pacer mode should be programmed to an asynchronous mode with ventricular pacing during electrocautery during cardiac surgery.	XII.F.3. Pacemakers	200-249	0

## Postoperative and Perioperative

	Key Point	ABA Blueprint Code	# of Diplomates	CME Activity Count
10	Pulmonary vein (PV) stenosis can present with hypoxemia and pulmonary edema. This most commonly occurs as a complication of PV ablation for AFib or after lung transplant, but rarely as a complication after PV vent placement.	XII.H.3. Postanesthetic Critical Care of Adult Cardiothoracic Surgical Patients	100-149	0