



## **Clinical Examination Station 1**

**9 minutes with up to 1 minute for feedback**

**You are a surgical SHO in outpatients and your consultant has asked you to see a follow-up patient. Specifically, you have been asked to examine this patient's abdomen and present your findings. You will then be asked some questions regarding the management.**

## Abdominal Examination

**Performs an appropriate examination of the abdomen, including peripheral examination of hands, neck and chest. Correctly inspects, palpates for masses and organomegaly and auscultates.**

**Presents findings coherently and succinctly**

**What type of surgery has this patient had?**

- Liver transplant (roof-top/Mercedes Benz scar / remaining stigmata of ALD e.g. ?spider naevi -> OLTx for ALD)

**What complication of surgery has developed?**

- Incisional hernia

**Which factors pre-dispose to incisional hernias?**

- Pre-operative
  - o Age, diabetes, steroid use, renal failure, obesity, malignancy, abdominal distension
- Operative
  - o Poor technique – e.g. small bites etc, placing drains through wounds
- Post-operative
  - o Wound haematoma, infection, immunosuppression

**What are the complications of incisional hernias?**

- Intestinal obstruction
- Incarceration and strangulation
- Skin excoriation
- Persistent pain

**What is the difference between an incarcerated and a strangulated hernia?**

- Incarcerated – hernia which is not reducible
- Strangulated – hernia in which vascular supply of the contents is compromised leading to ischaemia and risk of infarction.

**What are the management options for this patient?**

- Conservative
  - o Truss
- Surgical
  - o Mesh repair (tension-free)

➔ Depends on symptoms caused by hernia, and patients wishes, balanced against co-morbidities and risk of surgery and likelihood of recurrence etc.

**Overall impression of the candidate** Please encircle your mark

**FAIL      BORDERLINE FAIL      BORDERLINE PASS      PASS**

If you have any specific comments about this candidate please write them in the box.