



## AMERICAN BOARD OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY 2004 OTOLARYNGOLOGY TRAINING EXAMINATION

### UNDERSTANDING YOUR SCORE REPORT

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#### **THE TEST**

The examination you took consisted of 300 multiple choice questions that evaluated recall of factual knowledge, interpretation skills, and problem-solving abilities. However, 100 of the questions were field test items which did not contribute to your score. In addition, 11 items were deleted on the basis of poor item performance resulting in 189 items used for scoring purposes.

Test items are assigned to subtest areas based on the question content which is the basis for calculating your performance in each of these areas.

#### **TRAINING GROUPS**

In order to refine the analysis and assist you in interpreting your performance, test takers are divided into four training groups based on when they will complete their residency. The groups for this exam are those residents who will complete their residency in:

2004

2005

2006

2007

#### **PERCENTILE RANKING**

The percentile rank is calculated from the distribution of resident scaled scores (the raw test score adjusted for year-to-year variations in test difficulty) for each group as well as for all test takers. Test takers in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile received the mean scaled score. The highest score is the 100<sup>th</sup> percentile and the lowest score is the 1<sup>st</sup> percentile. Your percentile rank indicates the percent of residents who received same or lower score as you did.

Table 1 shows the minimum, maximum, and mean scores for all test takers (Candidates) and by training groups. As residents progress in their training, they answer more questions correctly since they have had more education and experience. Therefore, it takes more correct answers (a higher scaled score) to be at a given percentile rank in more senior groups than in groups who have had fewer years of training.

## REPORTS

### INDIVIDUAL EXAMINEE REPORT

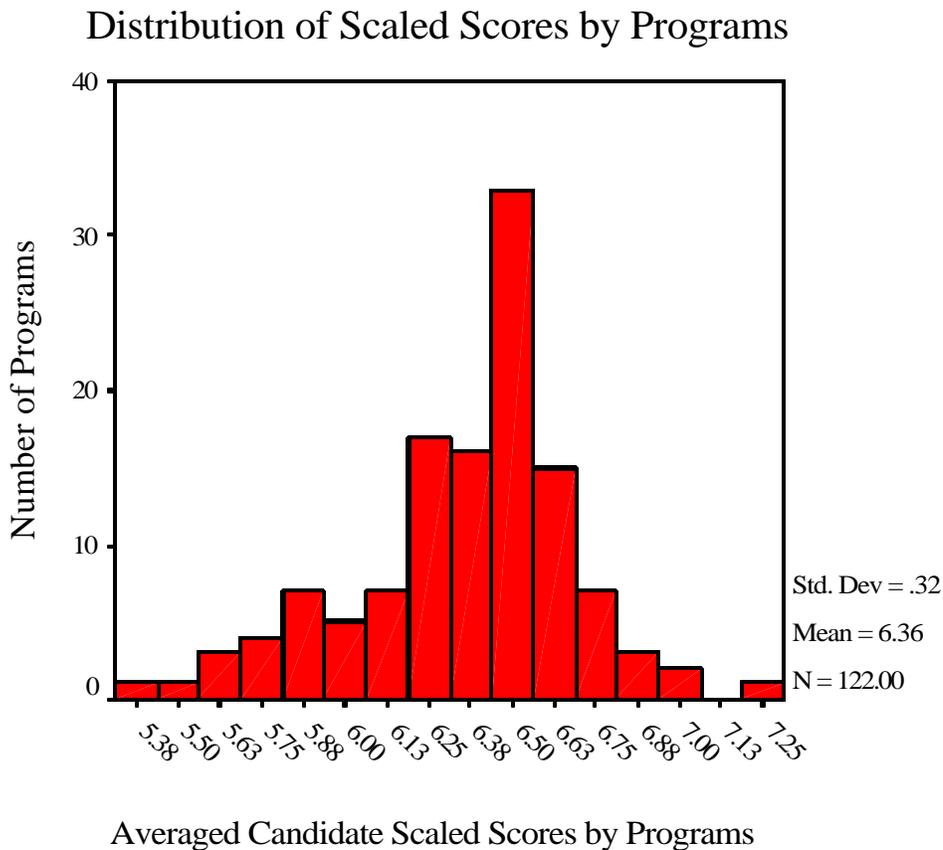
Your name, ID number, and training group are indicated at the top of the page. Your scaled score, percentile rank for your training group, and percentile rank among all test takers for the five subgroups are printed in the middle of the report. The total score is your overall performance on the 189 items in the examination.

### PROGRAM REPORTS

There are two program reports both of which list the trainees in the program, their training group, and their scaled and percentile rank for each subgroup and for the exam as a whole. The percentile rankings in the national report are based on all test takers whereas the percentile rankings in the training group report are based on the resident's appropriate training group.

Figure 1 below is a graph of scaled scores by program which may be helpful in determining how your program compared to others nationally.

Figure 1



**Table 1****Relationship of Percentile Ranks to Scaled Scores**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Number of Residents</b>	<b>Minimum 1<sup>st</sup> percentile</b>	<b>Mean 50<sup>th</sup> percentile</b>	<b>Maximum 100<sup>th</sup> percentile</b>
<b>All Candidates</b>	1170			
General		4.73	6.45	8.84
Head and Neck		4.07	6.52	10.51
Otology		4.04	6.50	9.51
Plastic		3.63	6.47	10.25
Basic Science		4.54	6.42	9.08
Total Test		4.75	6.47	8.29
<b>2004</b>	285			
General		5.13	6.72	8.06
Head and Neck		4.93	6.85	10.51
Otology		4.35	6.79	8.77
Plastic		5.04	6.79	10.25
Basic Science		4.91	6.50	8.34
Total Test		5.14	6.74	7.98
<b>2005</b>	277			
General		4.73	6.65	8.84
Head and Neck		4.93	6.78	10.51
Otology		4.04	6.76	9.51
Plastic		4.92	6.74	9.05
Basic Science		5.26	6.65	9.08
Total Test		4.82	6.71	8.29
<b>2006</b>	295			
General		5.00	6.40	8.39
Head and Neck		4.07	6.40	8.55
Otology		4.75	6.44	8.77
Plastic		4.92	6.35	7.86
Basic Science		5.03	6.41	8.34
Total Test		5.14	6.41	7.68
<b>2007</b>	282			
General		4.73	6.03	7.56
Head and Neck		4.38	5.90	7.75
Otology		4.49	5.86	7.49
Plastic		3.63	5.96	7.86
Basic Science		4.54	6.06	7.56
Total Test		4.75	5.94	7.13