**Study Questions**

**Chapter 19: Mental Status and Neurological Techniques**

1. Your neighbor’s 5-year-old is learning to ride a two-wheeler, and you see that he is bareheaded. An appropriate intervention would be to (choose two):
   1. invite her to tour the neurologic intensive care unit at your hospital to see what can happen to victims of head injury.
   2. call the child protection hot line and report her.
   3. talk to her about the safety advantages of always wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle.
   4. point out to the child that bicycle racers always wear them and that they are cool.

Answer: c, d

Rationale: It is important for all bicycle riders to wear helmets. Children may not see the need for safety, but by this age they care about fashion, and they will cooperate better if they see an advantage.

1. Several teenagers bring their unconscious friend to your emergency department. They say that he “took something,” and then they leave, refusing to give any other information. You note that his pupils are pinpoint and fixed, and that his deep tendon reflexes seem normal. No wounds or bruising are noted. It is likely that he has taken this classification of drugs:
   1. hallucinogens
   2. narcotics
   3. marijuana
   4. central nervous system stimulants

Answer: b

Rationale: Pinpoint pupils are classic for narcotic ingestion. He will certainly have a toxicity screen done with his lab work, and it is very possible that he may have used other drugs, too.

1. Your patient has some language impairment. She speaks fluently, but her auditory comprehension, content of speech, and naming ability are impaired. Her aphasia is likely to be classified as this type:
   1. Broca’s aphasia
   2. Wernicke’s aphasia
   3. conduction aphasia
   4. transcortical motor aphasia

Answer: b

Rationale: In Broca’s aphasia, speech is slow and hesitant. Patients with conduction aphasia have difficulty repeating words and substitute incorrect sounds. Comprehension is intact in transcortical motor aphasia.

1. Your patient, an 84-year-old woman, is brought by her family to see you. They are concerned because she lives alone and they think that she needs to move in with them or live in an assisted living facility. As you assess her mental status, you realize that she exhibits severe deterioration of cognitive function and greatly impaired short-term memory. Her family states that the decline has occurred gradually over the last few years, and that her two older sisters had Alzheimer’s disease. She is showing signs of:
   1. depression.
   2. delirium.
   3. dementia.
   4. acute confusion.

Answer: c

Rationale: Acute confusion has similar characteristics, but given her age and family history, dementia is more likely.

1. Anxiety disorders include:
   1. major depressive disorders, phobias, and panic disorders.
   2. panic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and posttraumatic stress disorders.
   3. phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and bipolar disorders.
   4. cyclothymia, panic disorders, and phobias.

Answer: b

Rationale: Major depressive disorders, bipolar disorders, and cyclothymia are examples of mood disorders.

1. When assessing a patient’s superficial pain sensation, follow all of the following guidelines except:
   1. Explain the procedure and let the patient experience the sharp and dull sensations before beginning.
   2. Begin in a peripheral location and move in a distal to proximal direction.
   3. Begin in a central location and move in a proximal to distal direction.
   4. Compare the two sides of the patient’s body.

Answer: c

Rationale: The text recommends moving in a distal to proximal direction.

1. In assessing the doll’s eye phenomenon in an unconscious patient, you are testing this cranial nerve:
   1. II
   2. III
   3. IV
   4. V

Answer: b

Rationale: This is testing the oculomotor nerve and should not be done if a neck injury is suspected.

1. Bell’s palsy is caused by damage to this cranial nerve:
   1. IV
   2. V
   3. VI
   4. VII

Answer: d

Rationale: It is caused by damage to the motor component of the facial nerve.

1. When performing Romberg’s test while assessing cerebellar function, all of the following are important except:
   1. Have the patient stand with eyes closed, and then with eyes open.
   2. Note how steady the patient is, both with eyes open and closed.
   3. Note if the patient can maintain balance for at least 20 seconds with eyes open and closed.
   4. Stand close to the patient in order to catch him if he begins to fall.

Answer: a

Rationale: The patient should stand with eyes open at first and then close them.

1. Signs of meningeal irritation include (choose two):
   1. neck flexibility without discomfort.
   2. pain in the hamstring with hip flexion and knee extension (positive Kernig’s sign).
   3. pain in the hamstring with hip and knee flexion.
   4. resistance to neck flexion (nuchal rigidity).

Answer: b, d

Rationale: Nuchal rigidity and a positive Kernig’s sign are signs of meningeal irritation.