

EMERGENCY NURSING REVIEW QUESTIONS:

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These review questions are based on the Emergency Nursing Core Curriculum and other pertinent resources to emergency nursing practice. They offer emergency nurses an opportunity to test their knowledge about their practice.

QUESTIONS

1. A 70-year-old patient experiences dyspnea and crackles while receiving the second unit of 2 units of blood. The nurse recognizes that this patient may be experiencing which transfusion-related complication?

- A. Nonhemolytic transfusion reaction
- B. Transfusion-associated allergic reaction
- C. Transfusion-associated circulatory overload
- D. Transfusion-related acute lung injury

2. Which of the following patients who presented to the emergency department with a history of head trauma is at highest risk for deterioration from a traumatic brain injury?

- A. A 2-year-old boy who was knocked to the floor by his pet dog
- B. A 14-year-old soccer player who collided with another player and has a scalp hematoma

- C. A 40-year-old man with a scalp laceration after striking his head on the edge of a cabinet
- D. A 65-year-old man who struck his head on a hardwood floor when he tripped over a stool

3. A female patient is brought to the triage desk by an older woman who states that the patient has back pain. The patient does not speak English, and the person with the patient insists on staying with the patient. While assessing the patient, the nurse notes a tattoo that “looks like a brand.” Further evaluation of this patient should be based on the consideration that this may be:

- A. a gang member.
- B. a victim of human trafficking.
- C. a form of tattoo art.
- D. a cultural expression.

4. A patient being treated with clozapine (Clozaril) presents to the emergency department with fever and chills. Which of the following is a priority for this patient?

- A. Complete blood cell count
- B. Acetaminophen for fever
- C. Chest radiograph
- D. Rapid strep

5. The trauma team plans to use resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta to treat a patient who is in hemorrhagic shock from an open fracture of the femur and extensive fractures of the pelvis. The nurse should plan to:

- A. set up for an arterial line.
- B. set up for central venous pressure monitoring.
- C. insert a nasogastric tube.
- D. insert a urinary catheter.

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ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: C

Transfusion-related circulatory overload (TACO) is one of the most common adverse reactions associated with blood transfusions. Patients at higher risk for TACO are persons older than 70 years and children younger than 3 years. Other people at higher risk are those with a history of cardiac dysfunction or renal failure. Nonhemolytic reactions usually present with fever (A). Transfusion-associated allergic reaction would present with signs of allergy such as urticaria, wheezing, or hypotension (B). Transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI) can present with respiratory distress and noncardiogenic pulmonary edema, but it also includes other symptoms such as temperature changes and blood pressure instability (D). Prevention of TACO includes identifying patients at high risk, administering blood transfusions at a slower rate, use of diuretics, and close monitoring. Carman et al.¹

2. Correct Answer: D

Elders are at increased risk of traumatic brain injury and neurologic decline because of age-related changes to the brain and comorbidities. Many elders are also receiving some form of anticoagulation therapy that places them at higher risk for bleeding. The other mechanisms of injury described are at lower risk for deterioration. Vacca.²

3. Correct Answer: B

Human traffickers sometimes brand victims as a sign of ownership. Traffickers may not allow victims to speak for

themselves or may instruct victims to give dishonest answers to questions. It is important to interview the patient in private and to follow hospital policy regarding use of certified medical interpreters. It is also important to note that some victims of trafficking don't realize they are victims because they may have been born into servitude. Byrne et al.³

4. Correct Answer: A

Clozapine is a second-generation atypical antipsychotic agent. A serious and possibly life-threatening adverse effect of clozapine is agranulocytosis. Second-generation antipsychotic agents are used to manage both the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Clozapine was the first drug of this generation and is reserved for patients who that do not respond to other drugs because of this adverse effect. Patients who exhibit signs of infection such as sore throat, chills, fever, or mouth ulcers should be evaluated for agranulocytosis. Sabella.⁴

5. Correct Answer: A

Resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta involves insertion of a catheter with a completely deflated balloon into the femoral artery, followed by inflation of the balloon at the desired location in the aorta. Inflation accomplishes the same effect as cross-clamping the aorta with the same circulatory effects. Nursing responsibilities include setting up an arterial line, patient monitoring, closed loop communication, and precise documentation of the entire event, including balloon up time and total inflation time. Cheema et al.⁵

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