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Question: 1

What does the term edema mean?

- A. Rash
- B. Within
- C. Vomiting
- D. Swelling

Answer: D

Explanation:

The term edema means swelling. The swelling is caused by an accumulation of fluid within the tissues of the body. Exanthema refers to a rash. The prefix endo- means within. Emesis refers to vomiting.

Question: 2

What is the appropriate way to take a radial pulse?

- A. Place your index finger and middle finger on the wrist, under the pinky finger
- B. Place your index finger and middle finger on the wrist, under the thumb
- C. Place your thumb on the side of the neck, next to the trachea
- D. Place your index finger on the inner portion of the cubital fossa (anterior aspect of the elbow)

Answer: A

Explanation:

The radial pulse is palpated at the wrist, under the thumb. When taking a pulse, you should use the pads of your index finger and middle finger. Your thumb has a pulse beat of its own, which may interfere with feeling the patient's pulse. The carotid pulse is palpated on the side of the neck, next to the trachea. The brachial pulse is palpated on the inner portion of the cubital fossa (anterior aspect of the elbow). The ulnar artery pulse is located at the wrist, under the pinky, but it is not as commonly used as the radial pulse.

Question: 3

A patient is anxious and begins hyperventilating. His hands and lips start to feel numb and tingly, and he feels lightheaded. What is the physiological cause of his symptoms?

- A. Excess carbon dioxide in the blood
- B. Excess oxygen in the blood

- C. Lack of carbon dioxide in the blood
- D. Lack of oxygen in the blood

Answer: C

Explanation:

Hyperventilation refers to a patient breathing more quickly than normal. This rapid rate of ventilation results in carbon dioxide being exhaled at a higher rate than normal. This can result in respiratory alkalosis, meaning that the pH of the blood is abnormally elevated, due to rapid breathing. The symptoms that may accompany hyperventilation are related to the metabolic alkalosis that develops. The patient should be reassured in a calm manner to reduce anxiety. Have the patient sit down and instruct him to take slow, deep breaths.

Question: 4

Which of the following is NOT one of the five stages of grief as described by the Kübler-Ross model?

- A. Delusions
- B. Anger
- C. Denial
- D. Bargaining

Answer: C

Explanation:

The five stages of grief, as listed in the popular Kübler-Ross model, include denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. These stages of grief may be experienced by a person facing death or by his or her survivors. They may be experienced in any order. Not everyone experiences all five stages, and some people experience other emotions not listed here. Delusions are beliefs that are held very strongly despite the fact that they are clearly false. They reflect an abnormal thought process and may be present in certain mental disorders.

Question: 5

Which of the following is tracked on a standard growth chart for patients ages 2 to 20?

- A. Age, weight, BMI
- B. Age, head circumference, height
- C. Age, height, and weight
- D. Age, head circumference, weight, height

Answer: C

Explanation:

Growth charts are used to track a child's growth over time. On a standard growth chart, the patient's height and weight are measured and charted according to the patient's age. Body mass index (BMI) charts may also be used, with BMI being calculated from the measured height and weight. Under usual circumstances, head circumference is not tracked in toddlers and older children. The important part of the chart is the overall pattern of growth and rate of change.

Question: 6

A patient is upset and angry after an appointment. She is distraught and unable to pay attention when you tell her what dates are available for her follow-up appointment. This results in some confusion, and the patient accuses you of not listening. What form of defense mechanism is this patient likely demonstrating?

- A. Displacement
- B. Projection
- C. Reaction formation
- D. Denial

Answer: B

Explanation:

Projection is when a patient attributes their own undesired thoughts, feelings, or actions to another person. For instance, this upset patient is not listening or paying attention when you try to help her set up an appointment. She becomes more upset and then accuses you of not listening, when she is actually the one who is not listening. Displacement is when thoughts or feelings about one person are taken out on another person or object. Reaction formation is when a person converts unwanted feelings or thoughts into their opposites. Denial is when a person will not accept reality.

Question: 7

You are asked to give a three-year-old child a dose of acetaminophen (Tylenol). The child weighs 15 kg. The medication order says to give the child a dose of 15 mg/kg. The oral solution concentration is 160 mg/5 mL. What dose of the oral solution should you give the child?

- A. 9 mL
- B. 5 mL
- C. 2 mL
- D. 7 mL

Answer: D

Explanation:

The child weighs 15 kg and needs to receive 15 mg of acetaminophen for every kg of body weight. The total dose should equal 225 mg ($15 \text{ kg} \times 15 \text{ mg/kg} = 225 \text{ mg}$). Because you know there are 160 mg/5 mL, you can calculate that there are 32 mg in every mL. In order to find out the dose in mL, divide 225 mg by 32 mg/mL, which equals 7 mL.

Question: 8

You have finished all of your assigned tasks and are thinking of leaving a few minutes early for your lunch break when the doctor approaches you and tells you that there are patients waiting to be seen, but the exam rooms have not yet been cleaned after the last patients. You know that this is the responsibility of another medical assistant in the office, but she is on the phone dealing with an important personal problem. What should you do?

- A. Explain to the doctor that cleaning the patient exam rooms isn't your assignment today, and tell the doctor where to find the appropriate medical assistant
- B. Reassure the doctor that you will take care of the problem, and then quickly clean the rooms yourself
- C. Wait until the other medical assistant is off the phone, and then tell her that the rooms need to be cleaned quickly
- D. Ask someone else in the office to clean the patient exam rooms

Answer: B

Explanation:

Teamwork is an important part of any medical career. Willingness to work as a team will help keep things running smoothly when unexpected issues arise. As part of a medical team, you will be expected to work with others to take care of patients in a safe and competent manner. In a professional work environment, you should be willing to help your coworkers when the need arises.

Question: 9

How should you position yourself in an exam room with a patient who seems angry and potentially aggressive?

- A. Position yourself between the patient and the door
- B. Position yourself with a desk between you and the patient
- C. Position yourself seated next to the patient
- D. Position yourself as far as possible away from the patient

Answer: A

Explanation:

If you are faced with a potentially aggressive patient, it is recommended that you make sure that you are positioned between the patient and the door so you can rapidly leave the room, if necessary.

Question: 10

Which of the following statements about electrocardiogram (ECG) chest lead placement is TRUE?

- A. V1 and V2 give information about the left side of the heart.

- B. V3 and V4 give information about the interventricular septum.
- C. V5 and V6 give information about the right side of the heart.
- D. All of these are true.

Answer: B

Explanation:

It is important to place the leads correctly and precisely so that the electrocardiogram (ECG) can be correctly interpreted. V1 and V2 give information about the right side of the heart. V3 and V4 give information about the interventricular septum. V5 and V6 give information about the left side of the heart.

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