

# Medical Technology

*Sonography  
Sonography Certification Exam*

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## Question: 1

Which statement best defines the ALARA principle?

- A. The principle states that the lowest reasonable energy should be used to produce the clearest image.
- B. The principle states that the highest reasonable energy should be used to produce the clearest image.
- C. The principle states the level of energy is not included in when deciding what technique to use to get a clear image.
- D. The principle states that the lowest reasonable energy' should be used with minimal exposure for obtaining the clearest image.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) principle stresses the use of the lowest reasonable energy' when obtaining the clearest image and minimal exposure to the patient. The principle also stresses that the FDA regulates the ultrasound instruments used because of the bio effects of ultrasound and the effects on patient safety. Choices a, b, and c are not correct.

## Question: 2

What is the lowest intensity value of ultrasound imaging?

- A. SATA
- B. SPPA
- C. SATP
- D. SPTP

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

SATA is the spatial average-temporal average of a sound beam and is the lowest level of intensity. SPPA refers to spatial peak-pulse average and is measured during the time of the pulse. SATP refers to spatial average-temporal peak and is the average intensity of a beam at the highest point. SPTP is spatial peak-temporal peak and is the peak intensity of the beam in both space and time, being the highest intensity measurement for a sound beam.

## Question: 3

What aspects of patient care and safety should be of concern to the ultrasound technologist?

- A. Identify the patient by name and offer privacy
- B. Address the patient by name, explain the procedure, and offer privacy
- C. Address the patient by name, explain the procedure clearly, offer privacy, select proper equipment and follow the ALARA principles
- D. Explain the procedure, offer privacy, and minimize conversation

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

It is important to identify the patient by name, explain the procedure clearly, protect privacy, select the proper equipment, and follow the ALARA principles for safety. The other choices are only partially correct.

### Question: 4

What physical abnormalities or illnesses may distort the results of an ultrasound of the gallbladder and may alter the interpretation of the images?

- A. The patient's history of chemotherapy, AIDS, a recent meal, or hepatitis
- B. Gallbladder stones
- C. An empty stomach
- D. Ascites

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

A history of chemotherapy, ascites, hepatitis, AIDS, or a recent meal may alter the interpretation of the gallbladder ultrasound. The other choices are only partially correct or incorrect.

### Question: 5

The ultrasound for an abscess can be difficult to image due to which of these pitfalls?

- A. A full stomach
- B. A full bladder
- C. An empty stomach
- D. Confusing the bowel with a possible abscess

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

It is a common pitfall to confuse the bowel with a possible abscess. A full stomach or a completely empty stomach or a full bladder can assist in telling the difference between the bowel

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and an abscess, and often the patient is asked to drink water to fill the stomach after scanning with an empty stomach. The bladder is often also filled to help to determine the bowel from an abscess or other organs.

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