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EMS

NREMT-EMR

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians: Emergency Medical Responder

Questions & Answers PDF

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Question: 1

A man is lying face down on a walking trail. How do you establish unresponsiveness in an adult patient?

A. Gently shake the patient's shoulder while asking if they are okay
B. Gently pat the patient on the cheek while asking if they are okay
C. Roughly rub the patient's chest while asking if they can hear you
D. Roughly shake the patient's shoulder while asking if they can hear you

Answer: A

Explanation:
Gently shake the patient's shoulder while asking if they are okay
To establish unresponsiveness in an adult patient, gently shake the patient's shoulder while asking if they are okay. If there is no response, call for additional help while activating EMS. If bystanders are around, you can ask them to bring an AED if one is available.
Avoid patting a patient on their face, as this could be construed as abuse. The correct way to determine unresponsiveness is by gently shaking their shoulder.
Do not roughly shake the patient or rub their chest to determine if they are responsive. If a patient is injured, roughly shaking them or rubbing their chest could cause further injury and also be construed as abuse.

Question: 2

You are called to a private residence for an unconscious male who was found by his neighbor. Upon your arrival, the patient is lying on his back, cold and unresponsive, with a reddish-purple distribution on his buttocks, legs, and back. The neighbor last saw the patient 12 hours ago.
What is the reddish-purple coloring in an unresponsive patient called?

A. Decomposition
B. Gangrene
C. Dependent lividity
D. Rigor mortis

Answer: C

Explanation:
Dependent lividity
When a patient has been dead for several hours, they will develop dependent lividity in the tissues closest to the ground. The reddish-purple coloring is caused by blood seeping into the tissues that are dependent (i.e., lower).
Rigor mortis is the temporary stiffening of a patient's muscles that occurs several hours after death.

Decomposition is the decay of a patient's tissues after they have been dead for at least one day.
Gangrene is the death of tissues caused by an infection or lack of blood flow. It causes skin discoloration, which is often black or green.

Question: 3

Which of the following is an infectious disease that is transmitted through blood?

A. Influenza
B. Hepatitis B
C. Tuberculosis
D. Chickenpox

Answer: B

Explanation:
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis B is an infectious disease that is transmitted through blood. Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus, which can be prevented with vaccination against the virus. EMS personnel are encouraged to receive the vaccination since they are exposed to blood in their profession. The signs and symptoms of a patient with hepatitis B include yellowing of the eyes, abdominal pain, and dark urine. Some people, particularly children, do not experience any symptoms.
Tuberculosis, influenza, and chickenpox are transmitted through the air, not through blood.

Question: 4

Regarding poisons, what is considered a "base?"

A. A chemical that has a pH level below 14.0
B. A chemical that has a pH level above 7.0
C. A chemical that has a pH level below 7.0
D. A chemical that has a pH level above 14.0

Answer: B

Explanation:
A chemical that has a pH level above 7.0
A "base" is a chemical that has a pH level above 7.0. A base is also known as an alkali or a caustic agent, such as a liquid drain cleaner.
An acid is a chemical substance with a pH level below 7.0, such as battery acid.
The levels of pH range from 0 to 14, with 7.0 being neutral. The pH measures how acidic basic water is, with a pH below 7.0 indicating acidity and above 7.0 representing a base. There are no pH measurements greater than 14.0.

Question: 5

What does the abbreviation MCI represent?

A. Many casualties incident
B. Mass-casualty incident
C. Multiple-cause incident
D. More casualties incident

Answer: B

Explanation:
Mass-casualty incidents
The most common use of the abbreviation MCI is to indicate a mass-casualty incident. Some agencies use MCI to identify a multiple-casualty incident, but this use is not as common as a mass-casualty incident. If you are calling dispatch to report a mass-casualty incident, using the term MCI is accepted in most jurisdictions. Each EMR should know the terms used in their jurisdiction.

Question: 6

The military has developed effective blood-clotting agents that are impregnated in gauze dressings or supplied in a powder form. These agents can be packed into wounds and will form a blood clot in a shorter time, which will control bleeding rapidly.
What are these blood-clotting agents called?

A. Hemostatic agents
B. Hemorrhagic agents
C. Hemodynamic agents
D. Hemodialysis agents

Answer: A

Explanation:
Hemostatic agents
Hemostatic agents are useful in situations where a tourniquet cannot be applied, such as injuries to the groin, neck, shoulder, head, or armpit. They can also be used in other parts of the body to control bleeding quickly. Some EMS and law enforcement agencies carry hemostatic agents, which require training before they can be used. Follow local protocols regarding the use of hemostatic agents.

Question: 7

Certain signs and symptoms characterize different illnesses, indicating which body system is being affected. Which body system is affected if a poisoned patient is unconscious with constricted pupils?

A. The central nervous system
B. The digestive system
C. The cardiovascular system

D. The respiratory system

Answer: A

Explanation:
The central nervous system
If a patient is unconscious with constricted pupils after being poisoned, the central nervous system is affected. The brain is highly susceptible to poisons, which cause central nervous system depression or stimulation. Since the patient is unconscious with constricted pupils, that is a clue that the central nervous system is being affected.
Nausea and vomiting, abdominal pain, and diarrhea occur when the digestive system is affected.
If the patient complained of chest pain or presented with an abnormal or absent pulse, it would indicate the cardiovascular system is affected.
Patients with respiratory system findings have difficulty breathing, an irregular respiratory rate, and an irregular depth of breathing.

Question: 8

You are at the scene of a vehicle accident with major front-end damage. How do you reduce the risk of the vehicle's battery causing an electrical short circuit?

A. Disconnect the positive battery cable
B. Turn off the vehicle's radio
C. Turn off the vehicle's ignition
D. Disconnect the negative battery cable

Answer: C

Explanation:
Turn off the vehicle's ignition
To reduce the risk of an electrical short circuit, turn off the vehicle's ignition to cut the power. Turning off the ignition also protects the patient, rescuers, and bystanders by keeping the car still.
Turning off the vehicle's radio only cuts power to the radio, not to the electrical system.
Do not disconnect either of the battery cables unless you have been properly trained and have the right tools. Battery acid leakage could harm anyone trying to disconnect the battery. The quickest and safest thing to do is turn off the vehicle's ignition.

Question: 9

You and your partner are working as law enforcement officers, and you have recently been certified as an EMR. A college student is doing a ride-along because they are thinking of joining the police academy. You receive a call from dispatch for an assault on a 63-year-old female in a supermarket parking lot. Dispatch advises that the patient has trauma to her head, neck, and scapula after being pushed backward and falling onto the pavement. The suspect has left the scene, and an ambulance is en route. As you are responding, your ride-along asks you what body part the scapula is.
What is the scapula?

A. Upper arm
B. Elbow
C. Collarbone
D. Shoulder blade

Answer: D

Explanation:
Shoulder blade
The scapula is the shoulder blade, which is a large triangular-shaped bone in the upper back. The scapula is surrounded by a system of muscles that move the arm.
The collarbone (clavicle) connects the arm with the rest of the skeleton. It allows for movement of the shoulder away from the body.
The upper arm is called the humerus, which is the long bone of the upper arm.
The elbow is the joint between the forearm and the upper arm where the arm bends.

Question: 10

Which hormone enables glucose to be used as fuel?

A. Insulin
B. Testosterone
C. Progesterone
D. Estrogen

Answer: A

Explanation:
Insulin
The body produces a hormone called insulin that enables glucose (sugar), which is carried by the blood, to move into individual cells to be used as fuel. Insulin is produced in the pancreas in response to rising glucose in the bloodstream. After a person eats a meal, any carbohydrates that were eaten are broken into glucose and passed into the bloodstream. The pancreas detects this rise in blood glucose and starts to secrete insulin.
Progesterone is a female sex hormone involved in the menstrual cycle, pregnancy, and development of embryos.
Testosterone is the primary male sex hormone responsible for the development of male reproductive tissues, increased muscle and bone mass, and the growth of body hair.
Estrogen is a female sex hormone that is responsible for the development and regulation of the female reproductive system and secondary sex characteristics.

Question: 11

A young boy dove into a pool and struck his head on the bottom. After diving in the water after him, you find the boy to be conscious and disoriented after reaching the surface. The patient tells you his head and neck hurt. Another lifeguard came to assist with a backboard.
How should you place the patient on a backboard while maintaining spinal precautions?

A. Have four people assist you with their hands to remove him from the water, then place him on a backboard
B. Place the patient on the backboard after you remove him from the water by yourself
C. Place the patient on the backboard while he is in the water
D. Have two people assist you with their hands to remove him from the water, then place him on a backboard

Answer: C

Explanation:
Place the patient on the backboard while he is in the water
When a patient is in the water and requires spinal precautions, they will be placed on the backboard while they are in the water. This minimizes movement of the patient's head and spine.
Do not remove the patient from the water by yourself because you would be unable to take proper spinal precautions and you could cause further injury.
If a backboard was not available, a patient can be removed from the water with the assistance of six people using their hands. However, a backboard is available in this scenario.

Question: 12

You are treating a patient who is showing signs of organophosphate poisoning, and you are trained to administer a DuoDote Auto-Injector. Where should you administer the medication?

A. In the top portion of the patient's thigh
B. In the lateral part of the patient's thigh
C. In the patient's shoulder
D. In the patient's buttocks

Answer: B

Explanation:
In the lateral part of the patient's thigh
The DuoDote Auto-Injector is administered in the lateral part of the patient's thigh. This location is preferred because the medicine needs to be directed into the patient's muscle, and the lateral part of the thigh has less tissue and is more muscular than the top portion of the thigh.
The manufacturers of the DuoDote Auto-Injector Kit do not recommend administering the medication intramuscularly in the buttocks or shoulder.

Question: 13

You are called to a private residence for an unresponsive 6-month-old male. Upon your arrival, the infant's father meets you at the door, stating that he found his son unresponsive after putting him to bed one hour ago.
How is an infant's level of responsiveness determined?

A. By giving five chest thrusts
B. By gently shaking or tapping the infant
C. By giving five back slaps
D. By gently spanking the infant's bottom

Answer: B

Explanation:
By gently shaking or tapping the infant
To determine an infant's level of responsiveness, gently shake or tap the infant. Usually, an unresponsive infant will be limp and will not respond to a shake or tap. If an infant is unresponsive, check their brachial pulse while simultaneously checking for signs of breathing.
Give five back slaps and five chest thrusts if the infant had a complete airway obstruction. Back slaps and chest thrusts are not used to determine an infant's level of responsiveness.
Healthcare professionals do not gently spank an infant's bottom to determine the level of responsiveness or for any other reason. Some people might think that healthcare professionals spank a newborn's bottom to encourage them to cry, but this is not practiced today. There are other methods to encourage a newborn to cry, such as drying them vigorously with a clean towel.

Question: 14

You are assisting a paramedic who has intubated an unconscious patient, and they ask you to ventilate the patient while they start an IV. Your jump kit contains a bag-mask device, a nasal cannula, and a non-rebreather mask.
How are you going to ventilate the patient?

A. Blow directly into the tube
B. Attach the bag-mask device with the mask directly to the end of the endotracheal tube and squeeze the bag
C. Place the non-rebreather mask over the end of the endotracheal tube and add oxygen at 15 liters per minute
D. Attach the bag-mask device without the mask directly to the end of the endotracheal tube and squeeze the bag

Answer: D

Explanation:
Attach the bag-mask device without the mask directly to the end of the endotracheal tube and squeeze the bag

To ventilate a patient who has been intubated, attach the bag-mask device without the mask directly to the end of the endotracheal tube and squeeze the bag. The endotracheal tube is in the patient's trachea; when the bag is squeezed, the air goes directly into the patient's lungs.
A patient cannot be ventilated using the bag-mask device with the mask attached, as there would be no seal around the patient's mouth.
Placing a non-rebreather mask on the patient and adding oxygen at any flow rate only provides supplemental oxygen. The patient is not breathing and needs ventilation.
Blowing directly into the tube creates an exposure risk. Among the available tools, the bag-mask device is the best option.

Question: 15

When a patient is having a heart attack, which arteries are blocked?

A. Carotid arteries
B. Femoral arteries
C. Pulmonary arteries
D. Coronary arteries

Answer: D

Explanation:
Coronary arteries
When a patient is having a heart attack, one or more of the coronary arteries are blocked. The blockage can be caused by fatty buildup in the arteries or a blood clot that becomes loose and lodges in the coronary artery. A heart attack (also called a myocardial infarction or MI) occurs when there is a lack of oxygen flowing to the heart muscle. The medical term "coronary" means something affecting the heart.
The pulmonary arteries carry blood from the right side of the heart to the lungs. In medical terminology, the word “pulmonary” means something that affects the lungs.
The carotid arteries supply blood and oxygen to the neck, brain, and face. The femoral arteries supply blood and oxygen to the lower extremities.

Question: 16

A serious head injury can produce a sign called a Battle sign.
What does a Battle sign look like?

A. A bruise behind one or both ears
B. A bruise behind only one ear
C. Two black eyes
D. A black eye

Answer: A

Explanation:
A bruise behind one or both ears

A Battle sign looks like a bruise behind one or both ears and can even extend to the upper part of the neck. Typically, a Battle sign will be a large, crescent-shaped bruise. This sign was named after William Henry Battle, so when documenting your findings on a patient care report, the term is capitalized.
When a patient has a Battle sign, they will often have black eyes, which are referred to as "raccoon eyes." Both of these signs are the result of a basal skull fracture.
A Battle sign can appear behind one or both ears.

Question: 17

Which of the following is not an advantage of using helicopters for emergency operations?

A. They can fly in all types of weather.
B. They can fly into inaccessible areas.
C. They can fly into wilderness regions.
D. They can fly above traffic congestion.

Answer: A

Explanation:
They can fly in all types of weather.
Helicopters can fly above traffic congestion, and they can fly into the wilderness and other inaccessible areas. However, they cannot fly in all types of weather. Helicopters are limited by bad weather such as thunderstorms and blizzards, high wind conditions, and freezing rain.

Question: 18

How many steps does the extrication process include?

A. 1 step
B. 7 steps
C. 2 steps
D. 4 steps

Answer: B

Explanation:
7 steps
The extrication process consists of 7 steps, beginning with the rescuer's arrival on the scene and ending with the patient's removal from the vehicle entrapment. These steps cover assessing, treating, and removing patients who are trapped in vehicles that have crashed.
As an EMR, you may only be involved with the first 4 steps of extrication, but there are 7 steps in total.

Question: 19

When a patient has emphysema, what problem has developed in their lungs?

A. The airways in the lungs are inflamed
B. The alveoli are damaged
C. The smaller air passages are spasming or constricted
D. The lungs are infected

Answer: B

Explanation:
The alveoli are damaged
When a patient has emphysema, the cause is damage to the alveoli (small air sacs) in the lungs. When the alveoli are damaged by toxins, smoking, or other irritants, the alveoli become damaged. The air sacs lose their shape and elasticity, and the normal exchange of carbon dioxide and oxygen is diminished, causing difficulty breathing. The most common cause of emphysema is cigarette smoke.
When the airways in the lungs are inflamed, it is called chronic bronchitis. Some patients with emphysema will also have chronic bronchitis, but in emphysema, the alveoli are damaged.
Patients with a lung infection will have pneumonia, and those who have spasming or constriction of the smaller air passages will develop asthma.

Question: 20

A patient who experienced a motorcycle accident has a suspected spinal injury. You attempt to open the patient's airway using the jaw-thrust maneuver but are unsuccessful and do not see the patient's chest rise with ventilation.
What should be the next step in managing the patient's airway?

A. Attempt the head tilt-chin lift maneuver and provide ventilation
B. Perform a finger sweep and provide ventilation
C. Try five abdominal thrusts and then provide ventilation
D. Keep the head neutral and provide ventilation

Answer: A

Explanation:
Attempt the head tilt-chin lift maneuver and provide ventilation
If the jaw-thrust maneuver is ineffective in opening the patient's airway, the head tilt-chin lift can be used as a second attempt. Next, provide ventilation and look for a chest rise with each ventilation. The head tilt-chin lift is not the first choice for a patient with a suspected spinal injury, but if a patient is unable to manage their airway, they will not receive oxygen. Managing the airway is the first priority in this scenario.
Since this patient does not have any sign of an obstructed airway from a foreign body, abdominal thrusts or a finger sweep are not indicated.
Keeping the head in a neutral position will not resolve a tongue-blocked airway. The head tilt-chin lift maneuver needs to be performed.