

NR 293 Exam 2 Practice Questions

Chapter 10: Analgesic Drugs

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A patient was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last month, and has complained of a dull ache in the abdomen for the past 4 months. This pain has been gradually increasing, and the pain relievers taken at home are no longer effective. What type of pain is the patient experiencing?

a Acute pain

.

b Chronic pain

.

c Somatic pain

.

d Neuropathic pain

.

ANS: B

Chronic pain is associated with cancer and is characterized by slow onset, long duration, and dull, persistent aching. The patient's symptoms are not characteristics of acute pain, somatic pain, or neuropathic pain.

2. An 18-year-old basketball player fell and twisted his ankle during a game. The nurse will expect to administer which type of analgesic?

a Synthetic opioid, such as meperidine (Demerol)

.

- b Opioid analgesic, such as morphine sulfate
- .
- c Opioid antagonist, such as naloxone HCL (Narcan)
- .
- d Nonopioid analgesic, such as indomethacin (Indocin)
- .

ANS: D

Somatic pain, which originates from skeletal muscles, ligaments, and joints, usually responds to nonopioid analgesics such as nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). The other options are not the best choices for somatic pain.

3. A patient is recovering from abdominal surgery, which he had this morning. He is groggy but complaining of severe pain around his incision. What is the most important assessment data to consider before the nurse administers a dose of morphine sulfate to the patient?

- a His pulse rate
- .
- b His respiratory rate
- .
- c The appearance of the incision
- .
- d The date of his last bowel movement
- .

ANS: B

One of the most serious adverse effects of opioids is respiratory depression. The nurse must assess the patient's respiratory rate before administering an opioid. The other options are incorrect.

4. A 78-year-old patient is in the recovery room after having a lengthy surgery on his hip. As he is gradually awakening, he requests pain medication. Within 10 minutes after receiving a dose of morphine sulfate, he is very lethargic and his respirations are shallow, with a rate of 7 per minute. The nurse prepares for which priority action at this time?

- a Assessment of the patient's pain level
.
- b Immediate intubation and artificial ventilation
.
- c Administration of naloxone (Narcan)
.
- d Close observation of signs of opioid tolerance
.

ANS: C

Naloxone, an opioid-reversal agent, is used to reverse the effects of acute opioid overdose and is the drug of choice for reversal of opioid-induced respiratory depression. This situation is describing an opioid overdose, not opioid tolerance. Intubation and artificial ventilation are not appropriate because the patient is still breathing at 7 breaths per minute. It would be inappropriate to assess the patient's level of pain.

5. A patient will be discharged with a 1-week supply of an opioid analgesic for pain management after abdominal surgery. The nurse will include which information in the teaching plan?

- a How to prevent dehydration due to diarrhea
.

b Importance of taking the drug only when the pain becomes severe

.

c How to prevent constipation

.

d Importance of taking the drug on an empty stomach

.

ANS: C

Gastrointestinal adverse effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and constipation, are the most common adverse effects associated with opioid analgesics. Physical dependence usually occurs in patients undergoing long-term treatment. Diarrhea is not an effect of opioid analgesics. Taking the dose with food may help minimize GI upset.

6. A patient has been treated for lung cancer for 3 years. Over the past few months, the patient has noticed that the opioid analgesic is not helping as much as it had previously and more medication is needed for the same pain relief. The nurse is aware that this patient is experiencing opioid

a addiction.

.

b tolerance.

.

c toxicity.

.

d abstinence syndrome.

.

ANS: B

Opioid tolerance is a common physiologic result of long-term opioid use. Patients with opioid tolerance require larger doses of the opioid agent to maintain the same level of analgesia. This situation does not describe toxicity (overdose), addiction, or abstinence syndrome (withdrawal).

7. A 38-year-old man has come into the urgent care center with severe hip pain after falling from a ladder at work. He says he has taken several pain pills over the past few hours but cannot remember how many he has taken. He hands the nurse an empty bottle of acetaminophen (Tylenol). The nurse is aware that the most serious toxic effect of acute acetaminophen overdose is which condition?

a Tachycardia

.

b Central nervous system depression

.

c Hepatic necrosis

.

d Nephropathy

.

ANS: C

Hepatic necrosis is the most serious acute toxic effect of an acute overdose of acetaminophen. The other options are incorrect.

8. A 57-year-old woman being treated for end-stage breast cancer has been using a transdermal opioid analgesic as part of the management of pain. Lately, she has been experiencing breakthrough pain. The nurse expects this type of pain to be managed by

a administering NSAIDs.

.

b administering an immediate-release opioid.

.

c changing the opioid route to the rectal route.

.

d not changing the current therapy.

.

ANS: B

If a patient is taking long-acting opioid analgesics, breakthrough pain must be treated with an immediate-release dosage form that is given between scheduled doses of the long-acting opioid. The other options are not appropriate actions.

9. The nurse is reviewing herbal therapies. Which is a common use of the herb feverfew?

a Muscle aches

.

b Migraine headaches

.

c Leg cramps

.

d Incision pain after surgery

.

ANS: B

Feverfew is commonly used for migraine headaches, menstrual problems, arthritis, and fever. Possible adverse effects include muscle stiffness and muscle and joint pain.

10. A patient is to receive acetylcysteine (Mucomyst) as part of the treatment for an acetaminophen (Tylenol) overdose. Which action by the nurse is appropriate when giving this medication?

- a Giving the medication undiluted for full effect
.
- b Avoiding the use of a straw when giving this medication
.
- c Disguising the flavor with soda or flavored water
.
- d Preparing to give this medication via a nebulizer
.

ANS: C

Acetylcysteine has the flavor of rotten eggs and so is better tolerated if it is diluted and disguised by mixing with a drink such as cola or flavored water to help increase its palatability. The use of a straw helps to minimize contact with the mucous membranes of the mouth and is recommended. The nebulizer form of this medication is used for certain types of pneumonia, not for acetaminophen overdose.

11. A patient is receiving gabapentin (Neurontin), an anticonvulsant, but has no history of seizures. The nurse expects that the patient is receiving this drug for which condition?

- a Inflammation pain
.
- b Pain associated with peripheral neuropathy