



# USMLE<sup>Q&As</sup>

United States Medical Licensing Examination

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### QUESTION 1

The primary function of the descending loop of Henle in the kidney is?

- A. Reabsorption of sodium ions
- B. Reabsorption of water by osmosis
- C. Secretion of hydrogen ions
- D. Secretion of potassium ions

Correct Answer: B

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### QUESTION 2

Guillain-Barre is not linked to which of the following statements?

- A. Infections often present.
- B. Greater initial upper extremity deficits
- C. Increased CSF protein levels
- D. Hypertension

Correct Answer: B

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### QUESTION 3

A 2-year-old boy has a CT scan of the head performed after a pediatrician notices a disproportionate growth in his head circumference compared with the rest of the body. The scan demonstrates a large choroid plexus papilloma involving the body of the right lateral ventricle. Which of the following brain structures might be affected by direct extension of this tumor?

- A. Caudate nucleus
- B. Pons
- C. Cerebellum
- D. Hippocampus
- E. Hypothalamus

Correct Answer: A

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Explanation:

Tumors of the ventricular system of the brain can affect the brain tissue either directly, via pressure on or invasion into a physically close structure, or indirectly, by obstructing CSF flow and causing hydrocephalus. Choroid plexus papillomas are highly differentiated, benign tumors that can involve any ventricle but have a predilection for involving the lateral ventricles of small children, particularly boys. The caudate nucleus is a C-shaped structure that comprises part of the wall of the lateral ventricle throughout its extent. The only structure listed that is adjacent to the body of the lateral ventricle, and would therefore be directly affected by the large tumor described in the question, is the caudate nucleus. The cerebellum overlies the fourth ventricle. The hippocampus is adjacent to the inferior (temporal) horn of the lateral ventricle. The hypothalamus abuts the third ventricle. The pons forms part of the floor of the fourth ventricle.

#### QUESTION 4

Prothrombin is a \_\_\_\_ globulin and is produced by the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Alpha, Kidney
- B. Alpha, Liver
- C. Beta, Kidney
- D. Beta, Liver

Correct Answer: B

#### QUESTION 5

A previously healthy 40-year-old woman is brought to the emergency department by her husband because of a 2-day history of fever, lethargy, and confusion. Her temperature is 38°C (100.4°F), pulse is 80/min, respirations are 18/min, and blood pressure is 140/90 mmHg. Physical examination shows scattered petechiae and ecchymoses over the lower extremities. Neurologic examination shows moderate generalized motor weakness. She is oriented to person but not to place or time. Laboratory studies show:

Hemoglobin	9 g/dL
Hematocrit	27%
Leukocyte count	8000/mm <sup>3</sup> with a normal differential
Platelet count	15,000/mm <sup>3</sup>
Prothrombin time	12 sec (INR=1.1)
Partial thromboplastin time	30 sec
Serum	
Urea nitrogen	25 mg/dL
Lactate dehydrogenase	1000 U/L

A peripheral blood smear shows 3+ polychromasia and 3+ schistocytes. Urine and blood cultures grow no organisms. A chest x-ray shows no abnormalities. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?



- A. Acute myeloid leukemia
- B. Autoimmune hemolytic anemia
- C. Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
- D. Toxic shock syndrome
- E. von Willebrand disease

Correct Answer: C

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