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QUESTION 1

You are caring for a patient who has decided to discontinue treatment. You recognize that the patient is competent to make this decision and support the decision based on which of the following ethical principles?

- A. Justice
- B. Fidelity
- C. Autonomy
- D. Confidentiality

Correct Answer: C

The patient has the right to make this decision based on the ethical principal of autonomy. Justice refers to fairness. Fidelity has to do with trust and loyalty, and confidentiality refers to the right to privacy of personal information.

QUESTION 2

You have assisted the physician with insertion of a chest tube. As you monitor the fluid level in the water seal chamber you notice fluctuations in the fluid. What is the appropriate action?

- A. Notify the physician.
- B. Encourage the patient to deep breathe.
- C. This is a normal finding.
- D. Reinforce the dressing.

Correct Answer: C

Fluctuations of the fluid in the water seal chamber is a normal finding and the nurse should do nothing at this point. The water levels will rise and fall with the patient's breathing pattern. The fluctuations will stop if the tube is obstructed, if suction is not working or if the lung is reexpanded.

QUESTION 3

An elderly patient comes into the emergency department to rule out stroke. On admission, vital signs are pulse 90, blood pressure 150/100 and respirations 20. Upon reassessment 30 minutes later, vital signs are pulse 78, blood pressure 170/90 and respirations 24 and irregular. What should be the nurse's first priority?

- A. Have the patient describe how they are feeling.
- B. Check the patient's Dilantin level.
- C. Decrease fluids.
- D. Encourage the patient to drink.



Correct Answer: C

The nurse should decrease the fluids based on this assessment. The patient is showing signs of hypervolemia and increased intracranial pressure. The other three options are inappropriate for a patient who is be monitored for a stroke.

QUESTION 4

The older patient that you have been assigned to is having difficulty distinguishing between hot and cold temperatures. Alteration of what gland activity would lead to this problem?

- A. Parotid
- B. Thymus
- C. Pineal
- D. Sweat

Correct Answer: D

Alterations in the sweat gland would lead to the patient having trouble distinguishing between hot and cold temperatures. The skin is important in protection, sensory reception homeostasis and temperature regulation. The parotid glands are important in the drainage of saliva. Melatonin biosynthesis occurs in the pineal gland, and immunological roles throughout the body are affected by the thymus gland.

QUESTION 5

You are on break in the nursing lounge when a nursing assistant enters to tell you that what she just heard about the secretary. She then proceeds to tell you that the secretary's husband is a drug addict and she needs to be watched very carefully on the unit. You ask her what makes her think the secretary might take drugs, and she states that she heard it from someone else. What legal tort has the nursing assistant violated?

- A. Slander
- B. Libel
- C. Assault
- D. Negligence

Correct Answer: A

Slander is when something untrue is said about a person that results in injury to that person's good name. Libel would be when something untrue is written about a person that results in injury to the person's good name. The nursing assistant was spreading gossip, not fact, about the secretary, leading to injury to her good name.