



Paramedic

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Practice Questions

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1. You are treating a patient with a snakebite from a pit viper. All the following are proper treatment procedures EXCEPT:

- A. Providing airway support for the patient
- B. Ensuring that the scene is safe, and the snake is away from the area
- C. Keeping the patient comfortable and motionless
- D. Suctioning the venom from the bite area with your mouth

2. What condition do individuals typically develop during childhood if they are unable to produce sufficient insulin naturally?

- A. Type II diabetes (insulin dependent)
- B. Type I diabetes (non-insulin dependent)
- C. Type I diabetes (insulin dependent)
- D. Type II diabetes (non-insulin dependent)

3. In terms of the Apgar score, if a newborn infant has a pulse rate of less than 100 beats per minute, he or she would be assigned which of the following scores for pulse rate?

- A. 2
- B. -1
- C. 0
- D. 1

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4. Palpation with fingertips is usually employed for examining all of the following areas on the body EXCEPT the

- A. distal extremities.
- B. head.
- C. abdomen.
- D. neck.



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5. In terms of drug-receptor interaction, which of the following terms indicates the ability of a drug to initiate biological activity as a result of binding to a receptor site?

- A. affinity
- B. attraction
- C. efficacy
- D. antagonism

**6. A 35-year-old woman says she has an intense fear with a feeling of impending doom. She tells you that this occurred suddenly and without warning.

This type of anxiety disorder is known as which of the following?**

- A. panic disorder
- B. acute stress disorder
- C. generalized anxiety disorder
- D. obsessive-compulsive disorder

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7. The rib cage is made up of ribs known as true ribs and

- A. False ribs.
- B. Traditional ribs.
- C. Fake ribs.
- D. Full ribs.

8. Which of the following is the definition of ectopic pregnancy?

- A. a pregnancy where the embryo is malformed
- B. a pregnancy where the embryo attaches inside the uterus
- C. a pregnancy that is involuntarily terminated
- D. a pregnancy where the embryo attaches outside the uterus

**9. Examination of a patient's nails can provide insights into their health condition.

What term is used to describe the condition where transverse white bands appear on the nail, covering most of it except for a small area at the tip?**

- A. paronychia
- B. Beau's lines
- C. Terry's nails
- D. clubbing



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10. The innermost layer of an artery or vein is known as tunica `<code>_____</code>.`

- A. Media
- B. Intima
- C. Adventitia
- D. Lumina

11. A patient who is fully oriented and can communicate verbally would rate which of the following in terms of Verbal Response on the Glasgow Coma Scale.

- A. 6
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 1

12. About 80 to 85 percent of strokes are ischemic strokes.

These types of strokes result from which of the following?

- A. occlusion of a cerebral artery
- B. rupture of a cerebral vessel
- C. bleeding in the brain
- D. bleeding around the brain

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13. You are treating a patient who has sustained a depressed skull fracture. What is the best treatment for this patient?

- A. Use a bulky dressing to fill in the depressed section, then secure it around the patients head.
- B. Backboard the patient. Other than that, supportive care.
- C. Apply a helmet to the patient.
- D. Cover the area with a moist sterile dressing.

14. Which of the following statements about spinal shock is least accurate?

- A. The autonomic dysfunction in spinal shock usually resolves within 2 to 4 weeks.
- B. Spinal shock does not always involve permanent injury.
- C. Spinal shock refers to a temporary loss of all types of spinal cord function distal to the injury.
- D. Signs and symptoms include flaccid paralysis distal to the injury site.



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15. A complete tear of a ligament in connective tissues, which necessitates reattachment, is known as a <code>_____</code>.

- A. 3rd degree strain
- B. 2nd degree sprain
- C. 3rd degree sprain
- D. 2nd degree strain

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16. The information officer is responsible for which of the following?

- A. researching existing trauma care and making recommendations to improve care
- B. ensuring that all response activities are being carried out using the proper safety equipment
- C. communicating information regarding the response to the public and press
- D. coordinating all activities with outside agencies

17. Which of the following statements about helmet removal in the prehospital setting is least accurate?

- A. Removal of the helmet allows the patient's head to move into neutral alignment.
- B. Patients who are wearing full-face helmets must have the helmet removed early in the assessment process.
- C. Rescuers should coordinate removal of their hands from the patient at the same time.
- D. In-line immobilization must be maintained throughout the procedure.

18. As a rule, paramedics should only use police escorts:

- A. when the EMS crew is responding to an unfamiliar situational scene
- B. when there is a crime in progress
- C. when there are dangerous scenes that they are responding to
- D. when the EMS crew is responding to an unfamiliar area

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19. Which of the following is the FIRST step in providing emergency resuscitation to a newly born?

- A. Provide warmth.
- B. Tap the foot.
- C. Ventilate.
- D. Suction the nose.



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20. Which of the following is an immediate or early sign and/or symptom that can indicate pulmonary hypertension?

- A. Cardiac tamponade
- B. Tracheal deviation
- C. Jugular vein distention
- D. Atelectasis

21. The weakened area of a lung which collapses, allowing air into the pleural cavity, is known as which of the following?

- A. Hematoma.
- B. Tamponade.
- C. Bleb.
- D. Flail chest.

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**22. When assessing a patient, you notice that the patient has difficulties breathing, they are sweating excessively, coughing up blood, orthopnea, pink frothy sputum, and appear to have signs of anxiety.
Which of the following conditions is present in the patient?**

- A. Shock
- B. Pneumonia
- C. Asthma attack
- D. Pulmonary edema

23. A patient with no known prior history is complaining of difficulty breathing. Your assessment reveals wheezing in all lung fields. The difference between this patient and a patient with a known history is that a patient with

- A. a known history does not require any sort of physical examination.
- B. no known history will generally respond better to oxygen.
- C. a known history will not need ambulance transport.
- D. no known history has no prescribed medication you could assist in administering.



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24. For gas to flow into the lungs, a pressure gradient is required. The pressure of the gas in the alveoli is which of the following?

- A. intrapleural pressure
- B. intrapulmonic pressure
- C. atmospheric pressure
- D. intrathoracic pressure

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25. Endotracheal intubation is the method of directly placing a tube into the trachea. What is the purpose of this procedure?

- A. Keep the patient quiet.
- B. Reducing effort needed from the patient.
- C. Maintain an open airway for breathing.
- D. Maintaining nutrition in the patient.

26. Which of the following is not a correct instrument to confirm correct tube placement in performing an intubation?

- A. Colorimetric end tidal CO₂ detector
- B. Pulse oximetry
- C. Waveform capnography
- D. A laryngoscope

27. Which of the following situations can make performing a lighted stylet intubation difficult?

- A. The lighted stylet is too bright.
- B. The patient is asleep.
- C. The patient recently vomited.
- D. The room is not dark enough to see the stylet.

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28. Which of the following conditions gradually impairs blood flow to the heart by obstructing coronary arteries with calcium and fat build-ups?

- A. Ischemia
- B. Angina pectoris
- C. Myocardial infarction
- D. Atherosclerosis

29. The protective covering that surrounds the heart is known as

- A. Pericardium
- B. Myocardium
- C. Endocardium
- D. Septum

30. A heart rate that is faster than normal (>100 per minute in an adult) is called which of the following?

- A. bradycardia
- B. syncopal episode
- C. vasovagal bradycardia
- D. tachycardia



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Suctioning the venom from the bite area with your mouth

Snake venoms are extremely harmful and could cause injury to the rescuer. The paramedic should never suck poison from the patient's wound using the mouth. If suction is necessary, the paramedic should use a snakebite kit to remove venom from the wound. The paramedic should ensure the scene is safe (choice A), provide the snakebite patient with airway and cardiovascular support (choice B), and keep the patient as still as possible (choice C) to avoid rapid movement of the venom through the body.

2. C — Type I diabetes (insulin dependent)

Type I diabetes, also known as insulin-dependent diabetes, is a condition that typically develops during childhood. Individuals with this condition are unable to produce sufficient insulin naturally. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas that regulates blood sugar levels. Without enough insulin, the body is unable to properly process glucose, leading to high blood sugar levels. Option B) Type II diabetes (non-insulin dependent) is the wrong answer. Type II diabetes, also known as non-insulin dependent diabetes, typically develops later in life and is primarily caused by lifestyle factors such as obesity and physical inactivity. In this condition, the body is still able to produce insulin, but it becomes less effective at regulating blood sugar levels. Option C) Type I diabetes (non-insulin dependent) is also incorrect. Type I diabetes is always characterized by a lack of insulin production and requires insulin replacement therapy to manage blood sugar levels. Option D) Type II diabetes (insulin dependent) is also an incorrect answer. In Type II diabetes, individuals may sometimes require insulin therapy if other medications and lifestyle changes are not sufficient to control blood sugar levels. However, it is not the typical condition that individuals with insufficient insulin production during childhood develop.

3. D — 1

The pulse rate for an Apgar score is rated from 0 to 2 with 0 being no pulse rate. A pulse rate of less than 100 beats per minute rates a score of 1; and a pulse rate of over 100 beats per minute rates a score of 2.

4. C — abdomen.

Since some patients will immediately tense up their abdomen during an exam regardless of whether pain is present or not, it is typically palpated using the ulnar surface of the hand. Palpation with fingertips is usually reserved for examining the head (choice A), the distal extremities (choice C), and the neck (choice D).

5. C — efficacy

Efficacy is the term for the ability of a drug to initiate biological activity as a result of binding to a receptor site. In other words, it is the ability of a drug to produce the desired therapeutic effect.

6. A — panic disorder

Panic disorder is characterized by episodes of recurrent and intense fear or feeling of impending doom that occur without apparent warning. Physical symptoms include palpitations, shortness of breath and tachycardia.



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7. A — False ribs.

There are ribs that are called true ribs and false ribs in the rib cage. There are 7 true ribs on each side, and 5 false ribs on each side.

8. D — a pregnancy where the embryo attaches outside the uterus

An ectopic pregnancy is when an embryo develops outside the uterus, most often in a fallopian tube. An ectopic pregnancy occurs about once in every 300 pregnancies. A patient with an ectopic pregnancy may present with signs of internal bleeding when the fallopian tube ruptures.

Ectopic pregnancy and spontaneous abortion are two conditions that can cause vaginal bleeding in women who do not appear to be pregnant and who may not realize they are pregnant.

9. C — Terry's nails

The paramedic should observe the color and shape of the patient's fingernails and toenails and assess for the presence or absence of lesions. Terry's nails are characterized by the presence of transverse white bands that cover the nail except for a narrow zone at the distal tip. They are associated with cirrhosis.

10. B — Intima

The tunica intima is the innermost layer that comes in direct contact with blood circulation.

11. C — 5

The Glasgow Coma Scale rates verbal response from 1-5. A patient who is fully oriented and able to speak rates a 5 on this scale.

12. A — occlusion of a cerebral artery

Ischemic strokes result from **occlusion of a cerebral artery** that obstructs blood flow to an area of the brain. The most common underlying cause of ischemic strokes is atherosclerosis, the process in which fatty deposits collect and line the walls of vessels.

13. D — Cover the area with a moist sterile dressing.

If a patient has sustained a depressed skull fracture, it is most likely open. The best care you can provide is to apply a moist sterile dressing to the affected area.

14. A — The autonomic dysfunction in spinal shock usually resolves within 2 to 4 weeks.

The autonomic dysfunction of spinal shock usually resolves within 24 hours. Rarely, though, spinal shock may last a few days to a few weeks.

15. C — 3rd degree sprain

A 3rd degree sprain refers to a complete tear of a ligament in connective tissues that requires reattachment. This is considered the most severe type of sprain, as it involves a significant tear in the ligament. Treatment for a 3rd degree sprain often involves surgery to repair and reattach the ligament, followed by a period of rehabilitation and physical therapy to regain strength and function in the affected joint.

16. C — communicating information regarding the response to the public and press

If required, the incident commander may name officers to assist in managing an incident. The information officer (IO) is responsible for **communicating information regarding the response to the public and press**. .

17. C — Rescuers should coordinate removal of their hands from the patient at the same time.

This is the least accurate statement. Rescuers should never remove their hands from the patient at the same



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time.

This is because in-line mobilization must be maintained throughout the procedure.

18. D — when the EMS crew is responding to an unfamiliar area

Police escorts during an emergency response can be dangerous and should be used sparingly. As a rule, paramedics should use escorts **only** **when the EMS crew is responding to a scene in an unfamiliar area**. Even then the EMS driver should keep a safe distance between the ambulance and the escort.

19. A — Provide warmth.

The first step in emergency resuscitation of a newly born is to provide warmth. If the child does not begin breathing on his or her own, then clear the airway.

20. D — Atelectasis

Atelectasis is the lack of gas exchange and is an early stage. C and D are later stage symptoms.

21. C — Bleb.

A bleb is a weakened area of the lung which collapses and allows air into the pleural cavity. This leads to spontaneous pneumothorax.

22. D — Pulmonary edema

Pulmonary edema contains the symptoms listed above. Pneumonia is similar, except that the sputum is, in most cases, green or yellow.

23. D — no known history has no prescribed medication you could assist in administering.

When the paramedic is treating a patient with a known history, that patient will more than likely have a prescription medication. The paramedic may assist that patient in taking his or her medication, therefore beginning the treatment process.

In a patient with no known history, there is no medication on hand to assist the patient, and the paramedic should, in this case, administer oxygen and transport the patient to definitive care.

24. B — intrapulmonic pressure

A pressure gradient is produced by differences between atmospheric pressure, intrapulmonic pressure, and intrathoracic pressure (also known as intrapleural pressure). **Intrapulmonic pressure** is the pressure of the gas in the alveoli. Depending on the size of the thorax, this pressure varies a little above and below 760 mm Hg.

25. C — Maintain an open airway for breathing.

In cases where patients experience difficulty breathing, particularly in trauma situations, a medical professional may conduct an endotracheal intubation to maintain clear airways and facilitate respiration.

26. D — A laryngoscope

A laryngoscope is not used in determining that the intubation placement is correct. It is used mainly in the operating room.

27. C — The patient recently vomited.

A lighted stylet intubation is the process of inserting an intubation tube using a lighted stylet as a guide. It guides the tube into the trachea by trans-illuminating the soft tissues in the throat. However, if the patient has recently vomited, the pathway to the trachea (mouth, throat, larynx), could be filled with fluid and debris, making it difficult for the tube to follow the light source into the trachea.



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28. D — Atherosclerosis

Chest pain is often caused by atherosclerosis, which is the underlying factor in most cases of angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, and cardiac ischemia.

When calcium and fat particles clog the coronary arteries, blood flow to the heart decreases, leading to ischemia as the heart cells receive insufficient oxygen.

Without medical intervention, this condition will deteriorate, potentially leading to a myocardial infarction.

29. A — Pericardium

The pericardium is the outermost layer out of the other 3 choices.

30. D — tachycardia

A heart rate that is faster than normal (>100 per minute in an adult) is called **tachycardia**. Tachycardia can be caused by anxiety, fear, pain, blood loss, dehydration, fever, hypoxia, heart failure, caffeine or other stimulants, or cardiac dysrhythmia.



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