USMLE-STEP-2 Q&As

United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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QUESTION 1

You are examining the relationship between hypertension and myocardial infarction (MI) in your community. In order to do so, you send a questionnaire to the whole population in your community (1000 persons). All 1000 persons responded. The results obtained from that questionnaire are presented below in table.

ALL 1000 MEMBERS OF POPULATION "A": RESPONSES TO A QUESTIONNAIRE

	History of MI	
History of hypertension	Present	Absent
Present	15	185
Absent	5	795

You randomly select a sample of 100 questionnaires in order to determine how representative your results would have been compared to the whole population if you had originally only sampled 100 individuals from your community. The results obtained are shown below in table.

SAMPLE OF 100 MEMBERS OF POPULATION "A": FINDINGS ON CLINICAL EXAMINATION

	History of MI	
History of hypertension	Present	Absent
Present	4	36
Absent	1	59

Which of the following statistical tests could best be used to determine whether there is a significant increase in the history of MI among those persons who have hypertension in comparison with those without hypertension?

A. t-test, single-tailed

B. t-test, two-tailed

C. test of variance

D. P value

E. chi-square test

Correct Answer: E

The chi-square test is the most appropriate statistical test to determine whether series of frequencies or proportions are significantly different from each other. It is designed to describe with a single number how much the frequencies in each cell of a box of paired readings differ from the frequency we would expect if there were no relationship between the observed readings. If the observed readings are similar to expected readings, the chi-square will be a small number. If there is a greater difference, the chi- square will be larger. The mathematical equation is:

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$$

QUESTION 2

A 62-year-old man is undergoing neurologic evaluation. His arteriogram demonstrates the lesion shown in the figure below. Which of the following deficits is compatible with this lesion?

A. diplopia

B. transient monocular blindness

C. ataxia

D. vertigo

E. dysarthria

Correct Answer: B

The cerebral arteriogram shown in Figure reveals severe stenosis of the common carotid artery proximal to its bifurcation, as well as small lesions in the more distal vessels. Common manifestations are transient monocular blindness (amaurosis fugax), hemiparesis, hemisensory loss, aphasia, and homonymous visual field defects. Ataxia would be an unusual feature of carotid disease and, if present, would suggest involvement of the vertebrobasilar arteries, which results in dysarthria, diplopia, and vertigo.

QUESTION 3

A 60-year-old man disappears from his home and travels 100 miles to a small town, where he opens a small grocery store using a different name. Six weeks later, he awakens in some agitation, uses his original name, and asks to know

where he is. He wishes to return to his home. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

A. dissociative amnesia

B. dissociative fugue

C. dissociative identity disorder

D. depersonalization disorder

E. dissociative disorder not otherwise specified

Correct Answer: B

Dissociative fugue is classically typified by a person\\'s suddenly and unexpectedly traveling away from his or her home, assuming a new identity, and eventually recovering from the fugue or flight, unable to recall the events that took place during the episode. Dissociative amnesia is a more generalized term given to an inability to recall significant personal information. Dissociative identity disorder is the current diagnostic term for what was classically called multiple personality disorder. Depersonalization disorder is an alteration of experience in which an individual feels like an outside observer of his or her body or mental processes. Dissociative disorder not otherwise specified is a name given to other dissociative illnesses not specifically listed in DSM-IV-TR, such as dissociative states occurring in individuals subjected to brainwashing or indoctrination while held captive by terrorists.

QUESTION 4

Why does ligation of the hypogastric (internal iliac) artery effectively control intractable pelvic hemorrhage?

A. There is no collateral circulation to the uterus.

B. Uterine blood flow is stopped.

C. Arterial pulse pressure to the uterus is reduced.

D. Clotting in uterine capillaries is enhanced.

E. Blood flow is shunted to the ovarian veins.

Correct Answer: C

Bilateral hypogastric artery ligation converts the arterial system into a venous system; thereby, reducing the pulse pressure by as much as 85%. Subsequent menstrual function and fertility are normal, in part because of the rich collateral circulation to the uterus. The procedure is successful in approximately 50% of cases. The procedure is not technically easy to perform, and an intimate knowledge of the local anatomy is essential to prevent injury to the hypogastric vein or ureter. Uterine hemorrhage not controlled by other means requires a hysterectomy

QUESTION 5

A 23-year-old pregnant woman at 5 postmenstrual weeks took coumadin until about 3 days after her menses was due. She has monthly menses. A home pregnancy test was positive on the day she took coumadin. She takes coumadin because of a history of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. She is concerned that the coumadin will cause birth defects.

You advise this woman to do which of the following?

A. Abort the pregnancy because the fetus is likely to have birth defects.

B. Have an ultrasound in 12 weeks to search for fetal anomalies.

C. Have a genetic amniocentesis at 16 postmenstrual weeks.

D. Begin prenatal care because the probability of birth defects is low.

E. Take 10 mg vitamin K to reverse the effects of coumadin.

Correct Answer: D