USMLE-STEP-2^{Q&As}

United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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QUESTION 1

A 2-year-old girl presents with fever of 39.3°C and irritability. She has had an upper respiratory tract infection for 4 days. On examination, the right ear is bulging and has poor movement on insufflation. Which of the following organisms is most likely responsible for these findings?

- A. S. pneumoniae
- B. S. aureus
- C. M. pneumoniae
- D. E. coli
- E. group A Streptococcus

Correct Answer: A

Nontypeable H. influenzae, S. pneumoniae, and M. catarrhalis are the most common bacterial pathogens in otitis media of children. S. aureus, E. coli, and group A Streptococci each account for 2% or less of all cases of otitis media in children beyond the neonatal period. Mycoplasma is thought to be an uncommon cause of otitis media

QUESTION 2

A 23-year-old G1P0010 woman complains of severe dysmenorrhea (i.e., pain with menses). She misses work for the first 3 days of her menstrual cycle almost every month and states that this has been a problem for about 3 years, now getting worse. She is not currently sexually active and is not using any hormonal contraception. She complains of occasional deep abdominal pain after bowel movements. Subsequent laparoscopic evaluation reveals endometriosis. Which of the following is a true statement regarding this condition?

- A. Smoking is a strong risk factor for the development of endometriosis.
- B. There is a direct relationship between perceived pain and the amount of endometriosis noted at the time of surgery.
- C. Most women with endometriosis also have infertility.
- D. Medical and surgical management are equally effective in restoring fertility in the patient with endometriosis.
- E. The most common sites of endometriosis implants are the ovaries and anterior and posterior cul-desacs.

Correct Answer: E

Endometriosis is a complex condition affecting women of reproductive age, most commonly diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40. True incidence rates are hard to estimate because direct visualization is necessary to confirm the diagnosis, but the disease likely affects 710% of women. Because smoking is associated with reduced body mass index and reduced estrogen levels, it is negatively associated with the risk of endometriosis. Symptoms include ysmenorrhea (most common), dyspareunia (i.e., pain with intercourse), or dyschezia (i.e., pain with efecation). There appears to be little correlation between the amount of disease noted at the time of surgery and the patient\\'s report of pain. Infertility affects up to 3050% of women with endometriosis and surgical resection appears to be more effective in promoting fertility than does medical management alone. In order, the most common sites for endometriosis implants are the ovaries, anterior and posterior cul-de- sacs, broad ligaments, uterosacral ligaments, uterus, tubes, colon, and appendix.

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QUESTION 3

A 22-year-old woman with cystic fibrosis is engaged to be married and asks you about childbearing. How should you advise her?

- A. An amniocentesis should be done to detect fetal cystic fibrosis.
- B. Pregnancy is contraindicated because maternal mortality is significantly increased.
- C. Her children have a 25% chance of having cystic fibrosis.
- D. Pregnancy and delivery are usually successful with special care and precautions.
- E. She should use nasal oxygen throughout pregnancy to minimize fetal hypoxemia.

Correct Answer: D

With improved care, women with cystic fibrosis now survive into the reproductive age and are capable of carrying a pregnancy successfully. No special precautions such as prolonged hospitalization, oxygen supplementation, bed rest, or others are necessary. Likewise, there is no need for routine cesarean section or other labor modifications, except ensuring adequate hydration and normal serum electrolytes. An amniocentesis is unnecessary. There is no constituent of amniotic fluid that is diagnostic of cystic fibrosis. Also, the fetus is at risk for cystic fibrosis only if the father is a carrier. If not, the fetus will be a carrier only. Chorionic villus biopsy can be done to determine whether the fetus has cystic fibrosis if the father carries one of the 150+ alleles for cystic fibrosis or the couple had a previously affected child. It is becoming the standard of care to screen routinely pregnant women for the cystic fibrosis gene. Currently, routine screening will identify approximately 80% of carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene.

QUESTION 4

After an appropriate diagnostic evaluation, a 59-year-old woman with postmenopausal bleeding had a total abdominal hysterectomy and bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy (TAH-BSO). The pathologic diagnosis is adenocarcinoma of the endometrium. An endometrial adenocarcinoma that is confined to the uterus and extends more than 50% through the myometrium is at which stage?

A. IC

B. IIA

C. IIB

D. IIIA

E. IVA

Correct Answer: A

In general, gynecologic cancers confined to the organ of origin are stage I. Thus, this patient has a stage I cancer. In 1988, FIGO revised the staging of endometrial cancer from a clinical staging to surgical staging. Cancer limited to the endometrium is stage IA. Myometrial invasion less than 50% is stage IB, and myometrial invasion more than 50%, but not involving the serosa, is stage IC.

QUESTION 5



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A35-year-old man has a history of alternating episodes of major depression and severe mania, several of which have required hospitalization. According to the clinical vignette, select the pharmacotherapeutic agent which is most likely to be helpful to the patient.

- A. buspirone
- B. sertraline
- C. risperidone
- D. lithium carbonate
- E. acamprosate
- F. dextroamphetamine

Correct Answer: D

Lithium carbonate is an effective treatment for manic and depressive episodes due to bipolar I disorder, as well as for the prophylaxis of manic and depressive episodes in patients with bipolar I disorder. It can impede the release of thyroid hormone from the thyroid, and it can reduce the ability of the kidneys to concentrate urine; its use requires regular blood levels to ensure the avoidance of toxic blood levels that could cause tremor, dysarthria, ataxia, or death. Acamprosate (Campral) is gabanergic and decreases the craving for alcohol in patients with alcohol dependence. Sertraline (Zoloft) is a SSRI which is effective in the treatment of major depressive disorder, as well as in the treatment of panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and PTSD. Risperidone is an atypical antipsychotic that is effective in the treatment of psychotic conditions, including schizophrenia, and is associated with fewer serious longterm side effects, such as tardive dyskinesia, than traditional neuroleptics. Risperidone is a potent blocker of both 5-HT2 serotonin receptors and D2 dopamine receptors. Buspirone, a nonaddictive azapirone, acts as an agonist or partial agonist of 5-HT1 serotonin receptors, and is effective in the treatment of generalized anxiety disorder. Dextroamphetamine is a stimulant and is an effective treatment for ADHD.

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