

# USMLE-STEP-2<sup>Q&As</sup>

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

If we compare the population sample examined with the whole population that responded to the questionnaire, which of the following statements accurately describes the available information?

- A. The sample group confirms the findings of the questionnaire.
- B. As expected, there is a higher "real" incidence of hypertension than reported.
- C. As expected, there is a higher "real" incidence of MI than reported.
- D. There is a statistical test that could be applied to assess the significance of the differences.
- E. The data as presented are not really adequate for further statistical examination.

Correct Answer: E

In a questionnaire relating to history, patients' knowledge as to whether or not they have hypertension or have had an MI might be sufficiently accurate to allow further statistical analysis. The data provided in this questionnaire are not adequate for more detailed statistical analysis. The questionnaire responses rely on memory recall, which at best is questionable, for comparison with an actual examination. Criteria for establishing a diagnosis of MI and, if possible, actual blood pressure readings, as well as a definition of hypertension, are required. The crux of epidemiologic analysis is a detailed criterion for establishing a diagnosis. With this additional information, relevant statistical tests could be applied. In the absence of this information, any further statistical analysis is likely to lead to misleading results.

**QUESTION 2**

A 65-year-old man presents to the physician's office for his yearly examination. His past history is pertinent for a 40 pack-year smoking history and colon cancer 3 years ago for which he underwent a sigmoid colectomy. The most recent colonoscopic follow-up 3 months ago was negative. His physical examination is normal. Laboratory results show a normal CBC and electrolytes, markedly elevated cholesterol, and a CEA of 12 compared to values of less than 5 obtained every 6 months since colectomy. A repeat CEA 4 weeks later was 15, and liver function tests revealed a minimally elevated alkaline phosphatase, with normal transaminases and bilirubin. Which of the following is the most appropriate next diagnostic test in this patient?

- A. positron emission tomography (PET) scan
- B. radionuclide liver scan
- C. ultrasound

D. CT scan

E. MRI scan

Correct Answer: D

In a patient who has undergone surgical resection for colon cancer, elevated CEA, and liver function tests must be followed by an evaluation for metastatic disease, including the possibility of extrahepatic disease. The CT scan is the most useful examination to evaluate both intra- and extrahepatic disease. Various CT scans have been advocated for liver tumors, including dynamic and portography scans. PET scans may detect occult extrahepatic disease and studies are underway to define the role of this modality in metastatic colon cancer. MRI shows promise as a useful examination and can be useful to characterize lesions of uncertain significance. Radionuclide liver scans have been supplanted by more accurate scans. Surgical resection, if possible, is the treatment of choice for metastatic colorectal cancer to the liver. Chemotherapy is reserved for patients who are not surgical candidates or refuse surgical treatment. Radiation therapy is not usually used in these patients. Observation and repeat imaging delays the treatment for patients who may be respectable. The expected 5-year survival has been shown in multiple studies to be greater than 20%, usually in the range of 25 and 35%.

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### QUESTION 3

Which of the following institutions is involved in mounting international control programs for the eradication of communicable disease?

A. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

B. United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

C. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

D. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

E. World Health Organization (WHO)

Correct Answer: E

In the United States, the organization of food and water control is complex. Among the federal control agencies, the EPA is the most recent, and in many ways the most active and powerful. This agency has now set up an elaborate system of regulation and control of the use of pesticides (which until 1970 was the responsibility of the USDA) and has banned the marketing of chlorophenothane (DDT) for use in the home. The FDA has authority to remove food from the market if it contains pesticides (e.g., PCBs in fish) in excess of the action levels set by the EPA. The FDA also retains the authority to remove from the market any food with inappropriate additives, that contains substances harmful to human health, that is stored in unsanitary conditions, that has decomposed, or that is not fit for consumption.

The USDA enforces wholesomeness standards that it sets for the production and sale of meat. International control is assisted by the WHO. This agency has mounted control programs for the eradication of communicable disease with conspicuous success in the case of smallpox. It also publishes the International Statistical Classification of Disease (ICD-9).

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### QUESTION 4

Narcolepsy is a primary sleep disorder with all of the following symptoms except which of the following?

A. sleep paralysis

- B. sleep attacks with sleep onset REM (rapid eye movement)
- C. cataplexy
- D. hypnagogic hallucinations
- E. apnea

Correct Answer: E

Narcolepsy is a rare dyssomnia (incidence of .07%) defined by the following four symptoms: sleep paralysis occurs upon falling asleep or waking, sleep attacks with sleep onset REM which are brief (10-15 minutes) and occur in inappropriate situations (sleep attacks are effectively treated with stimulants), cataplexy which is a condition that involves sudden transient bilateral weakness or paralysis, and hypnagogic hallucinations. Apnea is the cessation of nasobuccal breathing for more than 10 seconds and is found in obstructive sleep apnea, central sleep apnea, and mixed sleep apnea.

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## QUESTION 5

A 75-year-old man is brought to the emergency department by his family for evaluation of jaundice. He complains of pruritus of 2 weeks' duration and a recent 10-lb weight loss. On examination, he is deeply jaundiced and has a nontender, globular mass in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen that moves with respiration. For above patient with jaundice, select the one most likely diagnosis.

- A. hepatitis A
- B. hemolysis
- C. choledocholithiasis
- D. biliary stricture
- E. choledochal cyst
- F. pancreatic carcinoma
- G. liver metastases
- H. cirrhosis
- I. pancreatitis

Correct Answer: F

Pancreatic carcinoma occurs in the head of the gland in 75% of cases. About 75% of the patients with carcinoma in the head of the pancreas present with obstructive jaundice, weight loss, and, in the presence of advanced disease, abdominal pain.

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