**Physician Assistant Practice Test**

Sample Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE)

1. Which of the following factors in patients with chronic venous insufficiency predisposes them to development of skin ulcers?

A. Increased intravascular oncotic pressure

B. Leakage of fibrinogen and growth factors into the interstitial space\*

C. Decreased capillary leakage

D. Inherited deficiency of protein C

2. At what age does the first tooth usually erupt in an infant?

A. 2-4 months

B. 6-8 months\*

C. 10-12 months

D. 14-16 months

3. A 7 year-old boy wets the bed on most nights. Which of the following is the preferred pharmacological agent to decrease the incidence of bed wetting episodes?

A. Imipramine (Tofranil)\*

B. Phenytoin (Dilantin)

C. Pramipexole (Mirapex)

D. Hyoscyamine (Urised)

4. Which of the following is considered to be the modality of choice for the identification of a pituitary macroadenoma that is suspected on the basis of a visual field deficit?

A. Skull x-ray

B. PET scan

C. CT of the brain

D. MRI of the brain\*

5. A 42 year-old female experiences pain on the plantar surface of her left foot in the area of the third metatarsal head. The pain is associated with wearing tight shoes and is relieved by removing shoes. Examination reveals a palpable mass and reproduction of pain with deep palpation of the third intermetatarsal space. The patient has tried wearing wider shoes with metatarsal cushions and taking NSAIDS but her symptoms persist. What is the best therapeutic option at this point?

A. Casting of the involved foot

B. Physical therapy

C. Steroid injection\*

D. Surgical excision

6. A 30 year-old patient presents with weight loss, diarrhea, and steatorrhea. Labs reveal that the antiendomysial antibody (AEA) is positive. What is the most likely diagnosis?

A. Celiac sprue\*

B. Ulcerative colitis

C. Whipple's disease

D. Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

7. A hospitalized patient is found with confirmed pulseless ventricular tachycardia. IV access is obtained following the second shock given. Which of the following medications is to be administered immediately?

A. Amiodarone

B. Magnesium

C. Atropine

D. Epinephrine\*

8. In addition to tremor, which of the following are cardinal symptoms of Parkinson disease?

A. Cognitive decline and rigidity

B. Personality change and bradycardia

C. Eye movement abnormalities and hyperkinesias

D. Rigidity and bradykinesia\*

9. Normal hemoglobin A is made of what combination of heme and globin chains?

A. 2-alphas and 2-betas\*

B. 4-gammas

C. 2-alphas and 2-gammas

D. 4-betas

10. Which of the following is the most important intervention in acute pancreatitis?

A. IV fluid administration\*

B. Antibiotic administration

C. Calcium replacement

D. Antiemetics

11. An electrocardiogram (ECG) shows a sinus rhythm with varying T wave heights, axis changes every other beat and a wandering baseline. Which of the following is most likely the diagnosis?

A. Artifact

B. Digoxin toxicity

C. Pericardial effusion\*

D. Poor lead placement

12. Which of the following is the first-line treatment for a patient with mild syndrome of inappropriate secretion of ADH (SIADH)?

A. Sodium supplementation to correct the hyponatremia

B. Restriction of free water\*

C. High volume hypertonic saline infusion

D. Pituitary ablation via transsphenoidal approach

13. Abduction of the shoulder against resistance helps localize pain in which of the following muscles of the shoulder girdle?

A. Supraspinatus\*

B. Infraspinatus

C. Teres minor

D. Subscapularis

14. What is the recommended method for screening pregnant women for gestational diabetes?

A. Fasting blood sugar and 2 hour post prandial

B. 50 gram glucose load followed by a blood sugar in 1 hour\*

C. 75 gram glucose load followed by a blood sugar in 2 hours

D. 100 gram glucose load followed by a blood sugar at 1 hour, 2 hours, and 3 hours

15. A 45 year-old smoker presents with a sore mouth and increasing difficulty eating for two weeks. Physical examination reveals a 1 cm white lesion on the buccal mucosa that cannot be rubbed off. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

A. Oral cancer\*

B. Oral candidiasis

C. Aphthous ulcer

D. Necrotizing ulcerative gingivitis

16. Which immunoglobulin is the first to respond during the primary immune response for a gram positive bacterial infection?

A. IgM\*

B. IgG

C. IgA

D. IgE

17. A patient with obsessive compulsive disorder would most likely have which of the following findings?

A. Raw, red hands\*

B. Priapism

C. Memory impairment

D. Abdominal pain

18. As a rule, solid foods such as cereal and fruits are best introduced into an infant's diet at approximately

A. 1 to 3 weeks.

B. 4 to 8 weeks.

C. 4 to 6 months.\*

D. 10 to 14 months.

19. A 56 year-old female four days post myocardial infarction presents with a new murmur. On examination the murmur is a grade 3/6 pansystolic murmur radiating to the axilla. She is dyspenic at rest and has rales throughout all her lung fields. Blood pressure is 108/68 mmHg, pulse 70 bpm. Which of the following would be the definitive clinical intervention?

A. Intra-aortic balloon counterpulsation

B. Mitral valve replacement\*

C. Coronary artery bypass surgery

D. Immediate fluid bolus

20. What is the treatment of magnesium sulfate toxicity?

A. Nifedipine

B. Terbutaline

C. Potassium carbonate

D. Calcium gluconate\*

21. Which of the following is the major pathogenetic mechanism that causes asthma?

A. Airway inflammation\*

B. Increased pulmonary secretions

C. Presence of Ghon complexes

D. Irreversible fibrosis

22. Which of the following is used to monitor possible recurrence of prostate cancer?

A. Prostate specific antigen\*

B. Acid phosphatase

C. Transrectal ultrasound

D. Bone scan

23. A patient presents with profound itching. Examination reveals short, reddish lesions on the wrists, elbows, and finger webs. Papules are also noted in these areas. There appears to be burrow marks emanating proximal to the finger webs. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

A. Scabies\*

B. Body lice

C. Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever

D. Lyme Disease

24. Which of the following is the most accurate method to differentiate benign from malignant thyroid nodules?

A. Fine needle aspiration biopsy\*

B. Ultrasound of the thyroid gland

C. Measurement of thyroid antibodies

D. Radionuclide iodine uptake

25. A 24 year-old male presents in respiratory distress and appears quite ill. A Gram stain and culture of the sputum reveals gram-positive cocci in clumps and a chest x-ray reveals multiple patchy infiltrates with some cavitations. Which of the following is most likely to also be found in his medical history?

A. IV drug abuse\*

B. Alcohol abuse

C. Poor dental hygiene

D. HIV positive patient

26. Which of the following is first-line treatment for acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy variant of Guillain-Barre?

A. Neostigmine

B. IV Solu-Medrol

C. Phenytoin

D. IV immunoglobulin\*

27. A 21 year-old female presents with dysuria. On examination of the urine, many squamous epithelial cells are noted. Which of the following is the next best step in the evaluation or treatment of this patient?

A. Order urine culture and sensitivity

B. Obtain renal ultrasound

C. Repeat urinalysis with a clean catch sample\*

D. Refer to a nephrologist

28. A 42 year-old male sustained a closed left tibial fracture in a fall two days ago. He was treated with a cast for immobilization. Acutely, he developed severe pain in his left leg. Examination reveals the anterolateral aspect of the leg to be exquisitely tender to palpation. The patient has extreme pain with plantar flexion. What is the most likely diagnosis?

A. Compartment syndrome\*

B. Deep venous thrombosis

C. Osteomyelitis

D. Complex regional pain syndrome

29. What is considered the most common physical examination finding for intestinal obstruction?

A. Distention\*

B. Fluid wave

C. Rigidity

D. Tenderness

30. Which of the following classes of antidepressants is associated with anticholinergic side effects, including cardiac dysrhythmias, dry mouth, sedation, and orthostatic hypotension?

A. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors

B. Monoamine oxidase inhibitors

C. Tricyclic antidepressants\*

D. Atypical antidepressants

31. Which of the following hormones primarily inhibits growth hormone secretion from the pituitary gland?

A. Testosterone

B. Somatostatin\*

C. Dopamine

D. Insulin-like growth factor

32. A 44 year-old female presents to clinic for evaluation of a syncopal episode that occurred while walking her dog two days ago. She denies amnesia or head trauma. She has had increasing dyspnea on exertion and pedal edema. Physical examination reveals clubbing of her fingers and central cyanosis. Auscultation of the heart reveals tricuspid insufficiency, widely split second heart sound with a palpable P2. Echocardiogram reveals a large ostium secundum atrial septal defect with bidirectional flow. Which of the following is a secondary complication in this patient?

A. Left heart failure

B. Ebsteins anomaly

C. Tricuspid stenosis

D. Pulmonary hypertension\*

33. A 27 year-old male presents with gradually worsening low back pain and stiffness for the past two years. His symptoms are worse upon awakening and gradually improve throughout the day. Lumbosacral flexion is less than 50%. Lumbosacral spine films show erosions in the joint line of both sacroiliac joints. HLA-B27 test is positive. Which of the following is the most appropriate first-line medication for this patient?

A. Indomethacin (Indocin)\*

B. Methotrexate (Rheumatrex)

C. Prednisone (Medrol dose pack)

D. Sulfasalazine (Azulfidine)

34. A mother of a newborn infant presents to the office concerned about reducing the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The infant was delivered at 39 weeks gestation weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces. There is no family history of SIDS and this is her first child. Which of the following is appropriate advice to reduce the risk of SIDS?

A. Bottle feeding with soy formula

B. Offer a pacifier at nap and bedtimes\*

C. Have the infant sleep in the prone position

D. Infant should sleep with the parents to allow close observation

35. Which of the following treatments will most benefit the diabetic patient with two vessel coronary disease?

A. Stent placement

B. Percutaneous balloon angioplasty

C. Medical management

D. Coronary artery bypass graft\*

36. Which of the following agents can be used as a urinary analgesic?

A. Phenazopyridine (Pyridium)\*

B. Oxybutynin (Ditropan)

C. Finasteride (Proscar)

D. Imipramine (Tofranil)

37. An infant born at 30 weeks' gestation begins to have respiratory difficulty shortly after birth. Examination reveals rapid, shallow respirations at 80 per minute with associated intercostal retractions, nasal flaring and progressive cyanosis. Chest x-ray reveals the presence of air bronchograms and diffuse bilateral atelectasis. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

A. Respiratory distress syndrome\*

B. Spontaneous pneumothorax

C. Transient tachypnea syndrome

D. Meconium aspiration syndrome

38. A 23 year-old male presents to the emergency department with severe right shoulder pain. He is holding his shoulder in internal rotation. Which of the following would increase your suspicion that he has a posterior glenohumeral dislocation?

A. History of a direct posterior blow to the humerus

B. History of seizure\*

C. Palpable mass in the anterior axilla

D. Palpable space beneath the acromion

39. A 24 year-old patient presents after a recent vacation. He complains of left ear pain. Physical examination reveals an inflamed external auditory canal and the tympanic membrane can not be visualized. Which of the following is the most appropriate treatment?

A. Oral penicillin

B. Ciprodex otic drops\*

C. VoSoL drops

D. Oral prednisone

40. A 33 year-old patient returns from a community picnic that was held on a hot July day. The patient developed severe explosive diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramps six hours after having homemade potato salad and hot dogs. Multiple people who ate at this picnic have similar symptoms. There is no associated fever. What is the most likely causative organism for these symptoms?

A. Clostridium perfringens

B. Campylobacter jejuni

C. Shigella

D. Staphylococcus aureus\*