Paramedic Emergency Care

Questions and Answers

From Bradys Paramedic Emergency Care 3rd Edition

Emergencies in the Elderly Patient

1. At what age does the respiratory system begin to feel the effects of aging?
p. 896

A.) 10
*B.) 30
C.) 40
D.) 20

2. What is the most common complaint for the elderly patient with a respiratory emergency?
p. 900-901

A.) Congestion
B.) Wheezing
C.) Coughing
*D.) Dyspnea

3. Which is NOT considered a complicating factor when assessing an elderly patient?
p. 897

A.) Hard to determine if acute or chronic
B.) Suffer from more than one condition
C.) Pain sensors are diminished
*D.) Over reporting of symptoms

4. What can a seizure be mistaken for in an elderly patient?
p. 904

A.) Dementia
*B.) Stroke
C.) Syncope
D.) Dysrhythmia

5. What is the most common cause of aortic dissection in the elderly patient?
p. 902

A.) Syphilis
*B.) Arteriosclerosis
C.) Congenital defect
D.) Connective-tissue disorder

6. What age marks the beginning of the "old-old" period?
p. 894

A.) 65
B.) 55
C.) 85
*D.) 75

7. What is the primary presentation of geriatric abuse?
p. 909

A.) Unexplained memory loss
*B.) Unexplained trauma
C.) Unexplained illness
D.) Unexplained medications

8. Which condition is an inflammation of the lining of the stomach?
p. 906

A.) Mallory-Weiss tear
*B.) Gastritis
C.) Esophageal varices
D.) Peptic ulcer

9. What is the average reduction in the weight of the brain in the elderly patient?
p. 896

A.) 2-3%
B.) 5-6%
C.) 3-4%
*D.) 6-7%

10. What is typically involved with a bowel obstruction in the elderly patient?
p. 907

A.) Stomach
*B.) Small bowel
C.) Large bowel
D.) Colon

11. What can be an especially important indicator of the elderly patient's diseases?
p. 898

A.) Eye sight
B.) House condition
C.) Mental status
*D.) Medications

12. What is an acute alteration in mental functioning that is often reversible?
p. 905

A.) Dementia
B.) Senile dementia
C.) Senility
*D.) Delirium

13. Which factor predisposes the elderly to hyperthermia?
p. 908

A.) Drugs that interfere with heat production
B.) CNS disorders
C.) Accident exposure
*D.) Low or fixed income

14. What makes the elderly more likely to sustain a brain injury than the young?
p. 899

*A.) Decreased brain size
B.) Increased skull size
C.) Decreased skull size
D.) Increased brain size

15. Which type of syncope can occur following emotional stress?
p. 902

A.) Cardiac
B.) Vasovagal
C.) Orthostatic
*D.) Vasodepressor

16. What condition results from a blood clot in the leg lodging itself in the patient's lung?
p. 901

*A.) Pulmonary embolism
B.) Pneumonia
C.) Cancer
D.) Pulmonary edema

17. Which medication is NOT considered a common cause of toxicity in the elderly patient?
p. 908

*A.) Methylprednisolone
B.) Inderal
C.) Hydrochlorothiazide
D.) Elavil

18. What is the increase in the size or bulk of an organ that occurs with age?
p. 896

A.) Hypotrophy
B.) Fibrosis
*C.) Hypertrophy
D.) Spondylolysis