

USMLE-STEP-2^{Q&As}

United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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QUESTION 1

A 6-year-old boy presents to the emergency department with a painful, markedly swollen elbow. While ice-skating, he fell with his arm outstretched. Radiographs of the elbow demonstrate a displaced, supracondylar fracture of the humerus. On examination, there is pain on passive flexion at the wrist and a decreased radial pulse, with diminished capillary refill in the hand. Which of the following is the most appropriate management of this injury?

- A. admission to hospital for close observation, with immobilization of the elbow at 90° flexion
- B. closed reduction with percutaneous pinning under general anesthesia
- C. open reduction and pinning under general anesthesia
- D. open reduction with pinning, and exploration of the brachial artery
- E. open reduction with pinning, exploration of the brachial artery, and decompression fasciotomy of the forearm fascial compartments

Correct Answer: E

This child has a displaced supracondylar fracture associated with vascular compromise of the forearm from associated brachial artery compression, distortion, or vessel injury. Decreased perfusion below the fracture in conjunction with pain on passive wrist flexion are signs of a developing forearm compartment syndrome. Management should include operative exploration of the brachial artery, open reduction and pinning of the fracture, and forearm compartment fasciotomy to limit progression of muscular ischemia. Immobilization of the elbow at 90° is suitable only for undisplaced fractures. For displaced fractures without neurovascular compromise, closed reduction and pinning may be adequate, but if adequate reduction cannot be achieved, open reduction may be required.

QUESTION 2

Which of the following delusions would most likely be observed in a psychotically depressed person?

- A. "My mind's eye is perfused with a radiance of the gods."
- B. "I've been targeted by the FBI."
- C. "My body is rotting inside out."
- D. "I have been hand-picked to be the world's leader; I am awaiting the signal to bring the masses together."
- E. "All I need to do is clutch the book to myself and all the knowledge pours into me."

Correct Answer: C

Patients with severe psychotic depression will often have delusions that are mood congruent and reflect the depth of their despair and self-aborrence. Patients with mania are more likely to have delusions that are mood congruent that would reflect their grandiosity, paranoid feelings, inflated self-esteem, and feelings of having special powers.

QUESTION 3

A 70-year-old female with chronic paranoid schizophrenia presents to the ER acutely confused with visual

hallucinations. Her skin is warm and dry and her heart rate is 110 beats per minute. Her group home nurse tells you that the patient had been complaining of having a dry mouth and having difficulty initiating urination this past week. Which of the following is the most likely cause for this presentation?

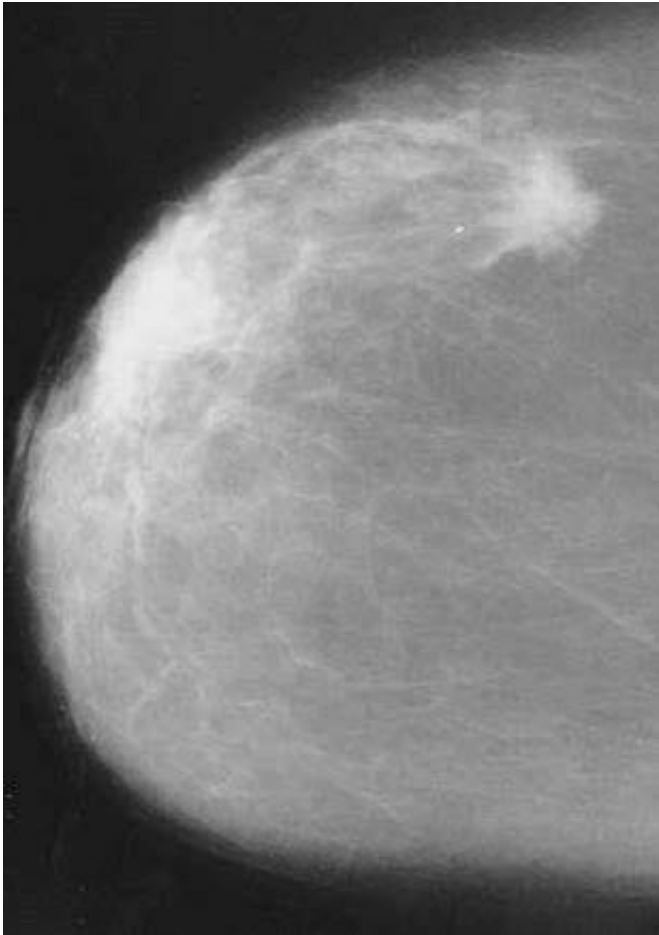
- A. psychotic exacerbation of schizophrenia
- B. urinary tract infection
- C. Alzheimer dementia
- D. anticholinergic delirium
- E. myocardial infection

Correct Answer: D

Acute confusion with visual hallucinations would be characteristic of a delirium. Warm and dry skin, tachycardia, dry mouth, constipation, and urinary retention are anticholinergic side effects. Many antipsychotics are anticholinergic, and when Parkinsonian EPS present, anticholinergic medicines are often added to reverse these side effects. These anticholinergic effects can be additive and can cause delirium.

QUESTION 4

An 83-year-old woman presents to a mammographic facility for a screening mammogram. The technician notices a mass in the lateral right breast. The patient denies any breast pain, nipple discharge, skin changes, or breast trauma. A right breast CC view is shown in



Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. papilloma
- B. invasive carcinoma
- C. cystosarcoma phyllodes
- D. DCIS
- E. fat necrosis

Correct Answer: B

A new mass in an older woman must be evaluated for malignancy. In this case, the mammogram has characteristics of malignancy, which include a density or mass that is stellate or spiculated, irregular in size or shape, and possessing ill-defined borders. Other features suggestive of malignancy include clustered microcalcifications, asymmetric density, architectural distortion, and skin or nipple retraction. DCIS usually presents as calcifications without a definite mass. Cystosarcoma phyllodes presents much like a fibroadenoma as a well-defined mass with smooth margins. Papillomas are small and not usually palpable or noted by mammography. Fat necrosis can mimic the mammographic features of malignancy and is often associated with trauma. However, only when an oil cyst is noted, can an unequivocal diagnosis of fat necrosis be made. The next step is needle biopsy, by FNA, or core biopsy so a histologic diagnosis can be made and options for management (i.e., modified radical mastectomy or lumpectomy, axillary dissection, and irradiation) discussed. Needle biopsy is less invasive and less expensive than incisional biopsy and, therefore, is preferred. Excisional biopsy (not listed) is acceptable, but often requires a two-step procedure, the first to establish the diagnosis and the second for definitive treatment. A needle biopsy, especially a core biopsy that renders a histologic diagnosis, can often avoid the necessity of a second surgical procedure.

QUESTION 5

Your patient has just had twins and wonders if there is any way to determine whether the twins are identical. You correctly tell her which of the following?

- A. Close examination of the placenta can often provide this answer.
- B. There is no way to tell unless one is a girl and one a boy.
- C. Only matching of human lymphocyte antigens could determine this with certainty.
- D. Identical twins occur only once in about 80 births of twins.
- E. It is unlikely because the birth weights differed by more than 200 g.

Correct Answer: C

Different-sex twins must be dizygous. Prenatal ultrasound can detect monochorionic, monoamniotic twins, and these must be monozygous. For same-sex twins, careful examination of the amniotic membranes after birth can reveal monozygous twins if the placental membranes are monochorionic. Dichorionic membranes can occur with either monozygous or dizygous twins. Ultimately, assessment of DNA polymorphism is the best way to determine twin zygosity

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