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**QUESTION 1**

The lower airway ends at the Alveoli, gas exchange occurs at this level. Oxygen moves to the hemoglobin by passing through a semipermeable membrane. Name this membrane.

- A. Capillary bed
- B. Bronchioles
- C. Capillary blood
- D. Veinule

Correct Answer: A

The bronchi sub divide into smaller and smaller passages, they end with tiny air sacs called alveoli. The alveoli are covered in capillaries, this is where the gas exchange occurs. The carbon dioxide moves off of the hemoglobin and oxygen moves to the hemoglobin by diffusion. Movement of a gas from a higher concentration to a lower concentration. At the level of the capillaries is where the arteries switch to veins, capillaries are so small only one blood cell can pass through at a time.

QUESTION 2

A 70-year-old patient is complaining of shortness of breath. She has a history of emphysema. You should

- A. Withhold oxygen, since these patients do not respond to oxygen.
- B. Withhold oxygen, because you could eliminate the hypoxic drive.
- C. Administer oxygen, because in most cases, the hypoxic drive will not be a problem.
- D. Withhold oxygen, because these patients become apneic if they receive high-flow oxygen.

Correct Answer: C

While it may be true that providing high levels of oxygen over prolonged time periods may cause the hypoxic drive to fail, it is a rare occurrence in the prehospital field. With the complaint of shortness of breath, it is better to ensure that the patient is fully oxygenated rather than taking a chance that she is hypoxic. The EMT-Basic is prepared to ventilate the patient if she goes into respiratory arrest due to the high levels of oxygen.

QUESTION 3

In which of the following situations should you call for immediate assistance?

- A. You must care for two critical patients with gunshot wounds.
- B. Your patient is a 26-year-old woman in active labor.
- C. Your patient is a child with fever who has had a brief seizure.
- D. Your partner is needed to stabilize the cervical spine.



Correct Answer: A

You could make the argument that you need additional help in the management of each of these situations; however, the one with the most critical need is when you must care for more than one critical patient. Both patients with gunshot wounds need immediate attention, so you should call for backup.

QUESTION 4

Cardiac Compromise is:

- A. Angina
- B. A heart attack
- C. A period of time when the heart stops
- D. Any type of heart problem

Correct Answer: D

Cardiac Compromise is a blanket term used to describe any type of heart problem. As an EMT-B, it allows you to identify that the patient has cardiac problem without going above your scope of practice

QUESTION 5

You are called to a local industrial complex for a potential hazardous materials incident. The dispatcher reports to you that approximately 30 workers have been affected and that several workers have been overcome by fumes. The specialized hazardous materials response team has been dispatched but will arrive approximately 20 minutes after your ambulance. Upon arrival, you are met at the gate by a worker who points to a large white tank next to the building which is the apparent source of the contamination. On the side of the tank you see a multi-colored NFPA 704 symbol with a number four (4) located within the blue diamond, a number one (1) located within the red diamond, a number one (1) located within the yellow diamond, and no indicator located within the white diamond. You are immediately approached by a crowd of approximately fifteen workers who state that they were exposed to fluid which was leaking from the tank. What is your next immediate action?

- A. Begin to triage the patients and obtain baseline vital signs
- B. Mix a weak bleach solution and tell the victims to use it to decontaminate their exposed skin
- C. Have the patients remove their clothing and begin to rinse them with water
- D. Ask the patients to remain in a single location until the hazardous materials team arrives

Correct Answer: C

Based upon the fact that the substance involved has already been identified as posing a significant health hazard, time cannot be wasted prior to initiation of field expedient gross decontamination. The universal decontaminating solution is water, and no time should be wasted in beginning to rinse any potential contamination away with it. Removal of the outer layer of clothing will immediately reduce the level of contamination on the victims. It is unreasonable to expect that the victims will wait for the hazardous materials team to arrive and begin decontamination. At no time should EMS personnel jeopardize their own safety by performing physical assessment or obtaining vital signs from potentially contaminated victims. Although weakened bleach solutions are sometimes used for decontamination, water is the best choice when the exact contaminating agent is unknown.



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