

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

United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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#### **QUESTION 1**

A 37-year-old man and his wife seek help for their 5-year history of primary infertility. Her infertility investigation is normal. However, the husband has an ejaculate volume of 0.4 mL, and there are no sperm in the ejaculate. Aqualitative test for fructose in the semen is negative. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. germ cell aplasia
- B. bilateral occlusion of the vasa deferentia
- C. 17-hydroxylase deficiency
- D. congenital absence of the vasa deferentia
- E. Klinefelter syndrome

Correct Answer: D

The normal ejaculate volume is 25 mL, and the bulk of the ejaculate is from the seminal vesicles. The reduced ejaculate volume may be the result of an incomplete collection or may indicate absence of the seminal vesicles. Fructose is the reducing sugar produced by the seminal vesicles, and its absence establishes a diagnosis of congenital bilateral absence of the vasa deferentia and seminal vesicles. This explains the azoospermia (absence of sperm; aspermia is absence of an ejaculate). Men with germ cell aplasia have only Sertoli cells in their seminiferous tubules. Their ejaculate volumes are normal, and fructose is present. Likewise, men with occlusion of the vasa deferentia will be azoospermic but have a normal ejaculate volume containing fructose. Men with 17- hydroxylase deficiency will have hypertension, be sexually infantile, and have azoospermia, because the enzyme deficiency prevents the secretion of normal amounts of cortisol, androgens, and estrogen, but an increased secretion of mineralocorticoids. Men with Klinefelter syndrome have patent vasa deferentia and seminal vesicles; their ejaculate volumes will be normal and contain fructose.

#### **QUESTION 2**

A 34-year-old woman just delivered a 4100-g boy after a 15-hour labor, including a 21/2-hour second stage. During the repair of a midline episiotomy, there is a marked increase in the amount of vaginal bleeding.

Which of the following is the most common cause of immediate postpartum hemorrhage?

- A. retained placental fragments
- B. uterine atony
- C. cervical laceration
- D. vaginal laceration
- E. disseminated intravascular coagulation
- Correct Answer: B

The main mechanism by which hemostasis is achieved following delivery is contraction of the myometrium to compress the uterine vessels that had been supplying the placenta. Lack of effective myometrial contraction (i.e., uterine atony) is the major cause of postpartum hemorrhage. If the uterus is found to be firmly contracted, then other factors, such as cervical or vaginal lacerations or a coagulopathy, must be sought.



#### **QUESTION 3**

A shipment of produce is identified as having a higher than allowable level of pesticide. Which of the following regulatory agencies retains the authority to remove the produce from the market?

- 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: A

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 chlorphenothane (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 USDAenforces 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).

#### **QUESTION 4**

A 35-year-old man with no previous psychiatric history is referred by his family physician for psychiatric evaluation. The family physician has been following the man for mild hyperlipidemia, which is currently being successfully treated with dietary changes alone. The man reports that he has been happily married for 10 years and has two children. He has been working as an accountant and has generally enjoyed his job. About 2 months ago, with no obvious precipitating event, he says, the man began to feel very blue, with a drop in his desire to play with his children and to compete in his usual volleyball league games. He reports that he has lost most of his libido and is having difficulty sleeping, with earlymorning wakening. He reports that his appetite has become very poor over the past 2 months, and he estimates that he has lost 10 lbs over that time. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Alzheimer\\'s disease
- B. schizophrenia
- C. major depressive disorder
- D. metastatic cancer to the brain
- E. systemic lupus erythematosus

Correct Answer: C



The essential feature of a major depressive disorder is the development of a major depressive episode without a history of mania or hypomania. The hallmarks of a major depressive episode are a subjective sense of dysphoria and a loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, also called anhedonia. Depressed patients often report decreased libido, sleep disturbance, and appetite disturbance. It would be important to rule out organic causes for this man\\'s disorder, such as hypothyroidism or the relatively rare phenomenon of metastatic cancer to the brain in a 35-year-old. Given the patient\\'s age and recent onset of symptoms, Alzheimer\\'s disease is unlikely. Schizophrenia generally has a gradual onset and is accompanied by psychotic symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions

#### **QUESTION 5**

There is public alarm over the possible foodborne transmission of bovine spongiform encephalitis in your community. You decide to institute an active surveillance system to gather information on possible cases. In order to do this you should do which of the following?

A. Collect information by gathering voluntary data reports from health care providers, laboratories, and others.

B. Conduct a case-control study of individuals in your community with and without the disease.

C. Organize the systematic calling of pathologists and neurologists from surrounding areas in an attempt to identify cases.

D. Monitor disease in animal flocks.

E. Collect billing reports to identify from where the cattle were purchased.

#### Correct Answer: C

Active surveillance is used in urgent situations, such as active and ongoing epidemics. Health agencies contact those data sources most likely to have current information regarding cases. The collection of data which has been voluntarily submitted is referred to as passive surveillance. Case-control studies are a form of investigation and represent a "next step" after surveillance. These studies seek to identify further information regarding the health problem y studying individuals with the disease. Surveillance systems on the other hand are used primarily to identify whether or not a problem exists and how it is changing through time. Monitoring disease in animal population or in other specific populations that are higher or earlier risk is referred to as sentinel data collection or surveillance. Identifying where cattle were purchased may help to identify the extent of disease spread in animals, but does not describe active surveillance of human cases.

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