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United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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**QUESTION 1**

A health insurance company decides to market its services to a population that will not incur high charges. The use of health services in the United States is most strongly associated with which of the following characteristics?

- A. age
- B. sex
- C. race
- D. education
- E. income

Correct Answer: A

In 1990, there were 3 million persons in the United States aged 65 or more. In 2001, there were 35 million, and by 2030 there may be 71 million. For the population as a whole, usage of health care is high at the time of birth and, to an even greater degree, in the period prior to death.

QUESTION 2

An investigator in a community hospital decides to examine all patients for a problem with alcoholism to determine prevalence in the community. In addition to recall bias, which of the following is the most obvious error in selecting all patients admitted to a community hospital?

- A. observer bias
- B. selection bias
- C. detection bias
- D. interpretive bias
- E. calculation bias

Correct Answer: B

Bias is a systematic error that may be introduced, generally unwittingly, into an investigation. Selection bias is due to systemic differences between those selected and not selected for a study. When selecting all admissions to a community hospital, alcoholics may be overrepresented among hospital patients and not reflect the community base from which the patients were admitted. Further, the investigator has not chosen a control sample but only patients already in the hospital, which further invalidates any outcome. While other biases may creep into this study, the selection bias is the major problem with the study.

QUESTION 3

A 70-year-old man presents to urgent care complaining of a painful, swollen left knee. He previously has had no problems with this knee. Three days prior to onset, he went out dancing for 23 hours but recalls no specific injury. Examination of the knee reveals a moderate-sized effusion and mild pain with any range of motion. Plain x-ray shows no



fracture. Which of the following is the best next management?

- A. MRI of knee
- B. aspiration of effusion fluid
- C. rest, ice, and leg elevation
- D. physical therapy referral
- E. arthroscopy

Correct Answer: B

The presence of effusion generally signifies significant disease. Aspiration of the effusion will help in evaluation for hemarthrosis, septic arthritis, and inflammatory crystal disease. Each of these is important to identify and treat early. An MRI and/or arthroscopy would be later considerations.

Orthopedic referral likely would be necessary.

QUESTION 4

A 60-year-old man presents with a nonproductive cough for a week and generalized malaise. He also has noted some abdominal pain associated with diarrhea for the past few days. His temperature is 101.5°F and clinical examination is unremarkable. ACXR shows a left lower lobe infiltrate. His urinalysis shows 50 RBCs, and his BUN (30) and creatinine (1.6) are both mildly elevated. In light of the extrapulmonary symptoms and signs, which of the following is the most likely cause of his pneumonia?

- A. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- B. *S. aureus*
- C. *H. influenzae*
- D. *S. pneumoniae*
- E. *Legionella*

Correct Answer: E

The spectrum of infection with *Legionella* organisms ranges from asymptomatic seroconversion to Pontiac fever (a flu-like illness) to full-blown pneumonia. Cough is usually nonproductive initially. Malaise, myalgia, and headache are common. The diagnosis of *Legionella* infection is suggested by extrapulmonary signs and symptoms, including diarrhea, abdominal pain, azotemia, and hematuria.

QUESTION 5

Which of the following patterns is most consistent with the physiologic profile of cardiogenic shock?

- A. CVP



B. CO

C. SVR

D. SVO2

Correct Answer: B

Patients with cardiogenic shock B. demonstrate a pattern with increased CVP, low CO, increased SVR, and decreased SVO2. Those with hypovolemic shock A. demonstrate low CVP, low CO, increased SVR, and decreased SVO2. The distinguishing feature of early septic shock C. is an increased cardiac output.

Patients with neurogenic shock D. have severe loss of vasomotor tone leading to the unusual combination of low SVR and low CO. CVP = central venous pressure, CO = cardiac output, SVR = systemic vascular resistance,

SVO2 = venous O2 saturation

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