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**QUESTION 1**

A 59-year-old woman had a left modified radical mastectomy for intraductal carcinoma 2 years previously. She presents with confusion, lethargy, and thigh pain. X-rays reveal a lytic lesion in the shaft of the femur. Which of the following blood abnormalities is most likely?

- A. high glucose
- B. low calcium
- C. high potassium
- D. high calcium
- E. low magnesium

Correct Answer: D

Hypercalcemia is a common complication of malignancy. Mechanisms include bone metastases, humoral secretion (e.g., osteoclast-activating factor), prostaglandin, or ectopic parathormone production and immobilization. Hypercalcemia is often manifested by confusion and lethargy. The other metabolic abnormalities usually are not associated with confusion. Therapy is directed at increasing renal calcium clearance and inhibiting further bone resorption. Saline infusion raises the glomerular filtration rate and decreases calcium reabsorption in the proximal tubule. Under life-threatening circumstances, the infusion may need to be aggressive, as much as 6 L of saline daily plus furosemide. Radiotherapy will do nothing for the calcium. Tamoxifen is an antiestrogen used in the treatment of breast carcinoma and other malignancies. When used in the presence of bone metastases, it may contribute to hypercalcemia. Chemotherapy will not decrease the calcium levels. Glucocorticoids have an antitumor effect and reduce tumor production of humoral mediators, but act slowly.

QUESTION 2

For each item, select the ONE best lettered option that is most closely associated with it. Each lettered heading may be selected once, more than once, or not at all. A 35-year-old woman complains of constipation, hair loss, and dry skin.

- A. Cushing's syndrome
- B. Addison's disease
- C. Klinefelter syndrome
- D. hyperparathyroidism
- E. hypothyroidism
- F. pheochromocytoma
- G. acromegaly
- H. diabetes insipidus
- I. diabetes mellitus
- J. polycystic ovarian disease



Correct Answer: E

The most common symptoms seen in patients with hypothyroidism include tiredness, weakness, dry skin, feeling cold, hair loss, difficulty concentrating with poor memory, constipation, and weight gain.

QUESTION 3

A 35-year-old woman comes into the ER after cutting her wrists for the 10th time. She did this after her boyfriend of 2 weeks left her yesterday. She reports a history of unstable interpersonal relationships, chronic feelings of emptiness, impulsive sexual relationships, and problems with her sense of identity. The one psychotherapeutic technique to avoid would be:

- A. therapeutic physical holding sessions to help the patient feel in control
- B. clear roles and responsibilities of patient and therapist are established
- C. therapist conveys empathic validation
- D. flexibility
- E. patient and therapist mutually develop a hierarchy of priorities

Correct Answer: A

Physically holding a patient would be a boundary violation. Conveying empathic validation, having clear roles and responsibilities, being flexible, and developing a hierarchy of priorities are all common features of recommended psychotherapy for a patient with borderline personality disorder.

QUESTION 4

A 62-year-old woman with a long-standing history of diabetes and hypertension presents for evaluation of hyperkalemia. Her room air arterial blood gas (ABG) and electrolytes are the following: pH 7.38/PCO₂ 34/PO₂ 89 Na 140 Cl 106 BUN 51 K 5.9 CO₂ 20 Cr 2.8

Which of the following is the underlying renal abnormality?

- A. renal tubular acidosis (RTA), type 2
- B. focal segmental glomerulonephritis
- C. interstitial nephritis
- D. RTA, type 4
- E. Barter syndrome

Correct Answer: D

In type 4 RTA associated with diabetes and hypertension, damage to the juxtaglomerular apparatus in the glomeruli leads to decreased renin production. This results in a state of hypoaldosteronism, causing hyperkalemia and a nongap metabolic acidosis.

QUESTION 5



A 62-year-old man is undergoing neurologic evaluation. His arteriogram demonstrates the lesion shown in the figure below. Which of the following deficits is compatible with this lesion?



- A. diplopia
- B. transient monocular blindness
- C. ataxia
- D. vertigo
- E. dysarthria

Correct Answer: B

The cerebral arteriogram shown in Figure reveals severe stenosis of the common carotid artery proximal to its bifurcation, as well as small lesions in the more distal vessels. Common manifestations are transient monocular blindness (amaurosis fugax), hemiparesis, hemisensory loss, aphasia, and homonymous visual field defects. Ataxia would be an unusual feature of carotid disease and, if present, would suggest involvement of the vertebrobasilar arteries, which results in dysarthria, diplopia, and vertigo.

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