

CHAPTER 11 QUIZ

Write the letter of the best answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. A friendly conversational approach to a patient interview provides for all of the following except:
- A. reduction in a patient's apprehension. C. improved quality of history.
B. promotion of cooperation. D. alleviation of symptom-related pain.
- _____ 2. If the medical patient is unconscious, the most reliable way for the EMT-B to obtain an accurate history of the present illness is to:
- A. talk to family members. C. interview witnesses and bystanders.
B. call the family doctor. D. search for a Medic Alert bracelet.
- _____ 3. Which is the best example of the way in which an EMT-B should ask a patient a question about his symptoms?
- A. How would you describe your pain?
B. Is the pain dull and crushing?
C. Do you have any pain under your breastbone?
D. Would you say your pain is viselike?
- _____ 4. The question "Where exactly is the pain going?" best relates to which letter of the OPQRST mnemonic?
- A. P B. R C. O D. Q
- _____ 5. The patient's statement "I feel like I just can't get enough air when I breathe" best relates to what letter of the SAMPLE mnemonic?
- A. S B. L C. M D. P
- _____ 6. In which situation would the past medical history not lead to important prehospital treatment?
- A. a 16-year-old asthmatic with shortness of breath.
B. a 30-year-old seizure patient with a history of epilepsy.
C. a 55-year-old male with substernal chest pain and a history of angina.
D. a 14-year-old boy stung by a bee, who is allergic to bee stings.
- _____ 7. On most runs by EMT-B crews, most of the history of the present illness for a child is usually gathered from the:
- A. family physician. C. parents.
B. child. D. medical dispatcher.
- _____ 8. The physical examination of the responsive medical patient is a:
- A. detailed head-to-toe exam.
B. specialized exam that is focused on the ABCs.
C. rapid physical examination.
D. focused exam centered on the area of complaint.
- _____ 9. Which of the following would you be least likely to obtain with an unresponsive medical patient?
- A. chief complaint. C. condition of pupils.
B. blood pressure. D. pulse.
- _____ 10. For the unresponsive medical patient, the EMT-Bs would begin by:
- A. requesting ALS support.
B. performing a rapid physical examination.
C. obtaining a SAMPLE history from bystanders.
D. immediately packaging the patient for transportation.

IN THE FIELD

Read the following real-life situation. Then answer the questions that follow.

“We knew that the patient was sick when we entered the room. He went back and sat in his living room chair and he had that ‘sick look’ about him. He was awake and responsive, but he was breathing kind of hard. And his skin was pale and pasty looking. We didn’t wait for more information. We got the oxygen on him right away.

“We introduced ourselves and told him we were with the fire department. He told us how he had chest pain that started about one hour ago. He was working on his income taxes when it started up all of a sudden. He said that he lives alone and didn’t know who else to call. He described the pain as ‘kind of crushing, like the last time I had a heart attack.’ When he said that, I made sure that the Lieutenant called for a paramedic rig.

“He told us that the pain was pretty bad, an 8 on a scale of 0 to 10, where zero is no pain and 10 is the worst he’s had in his life. The oxygen seemed to make him feel better and he agreed that it did. It had been five minutes since we got there and about 20 minutes since the pain started. While we waited for the ambulance and the paramedics, I continued with my SAMPLE history while my partner started to get a baseline set of vital signs.”

1. Based on the patient’s presentation, what other questions could the EMT-B have asked about the present chief complaint?
2. What would the EMT-B proceed to do next if the ambulance was not yet on scene?
3. If this patient had been unconscious when they arrived, where might the firefighters have possibly found more information?

CHAPTER 11 REVIEW

Write the word or words that best complete each sentence in the space provided.

1. To be able to accurately assess a medical patient, it is easiest if the patient is _____ .
2. Try to ask _____ - _____ questions when gathering a history of the present illness.
3. The "Q" in OPQRST stands for _____ .
4. When gathering a history directly from a child, it is often best if the EMT-B starts by getting on the _____ with the patient.
5. The EMT-B's physical examination of the responsive medical patient is usually _____ .
6. The most common medical identification device is the _____ .
7. Information about a patient's drug or alcohol use should be considered _____ by the EMT-B.
8. Often found on the refrigerator door, the _____ is commonly used to convey important medical information to EMS personnel at times when the patient cannot.
9. With any unresponsive medical patient, the EMT-B must also be alert for signs of possible _____ .
10. After assisting a patient with his or her prescribed medications, the EMT-B should still expect to _____ the patient.

ASSESSING MEDICAL PATIENTS

Below are steps to follow when you encounter responsive and unresponsive medical patients. Write the letters of the steps in the order you would perform them for each type of patient.

- A. Scene size-up
- B. Rapid physical examination
- C. History of present illness
- D. Initial assessment
- E. Baseline vital signs
- F. SAMPLE history
- G. Focused physical examination

Responsive Medical Patient

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Unresponsive Medical Patient

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

FOCUSING ON THE FOCUSED HISTORY

Below are parts of one patient's SAMPLE history. Write the element of the OPQRST and SAMPLE mnemonics that each part of the history represents in the space provided. When you are done, read the history out loud, like a radio report, in the order suggested by the mnemonics. Does the report make sense presented this way?

OPQRST

- A. Onset
- B. Provokes
- C. Quality
- D. Radiation
- E. Severity
- F. Time

SAMPLE

- G. Signs/symptoms
- H. Allergies
- I. Medications
- J. Pertinent past history
- K. Last oral intake
- L. Events leading up to the illness

- _____ 1. The pain is a 6 on a scale of 0–10.
- _____ 2. I was working on my car in the garage.
- _____ 3. I'm sick to my stomach, too.
- _____ 4. I'm not allergic to anything.
- _____ 5. I have high blood pressure.
- _____ 6. I ate lunch at noon.
- _____ 7. The pain started about an hour ago.
- _____ 8. I take one baby aspirin a day.
- _____ 9. The pain is sharp.
- _____ 10. I think I might have lifted something too heavy.
- _____ 11. I've felt fine today until this.
- _____ 12. The pain goes into my left armpit.

Chapter 11 Answer Key

HANDOUT 11-2: Chapter 11 Quiz

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. D | 3. A | 5. A | 7. C | 9. A |
| 2. A | 4. B | 6. B | 8. D | 10. B |

HANDOUT 11-3: In the Field

1. Was the patient on any medications? Did he take nitroglycerin before EMS arrived? A better understanding of the patient's state when the pain started might have helped.
2. A focused physical examination would be in order using the DCAP-BTLS aid as well as remembering to check for jugular vein distention (JVD).
3. Possibly either a Vial of Life or a Medic Alert bracelet/wallet card. They also could have seen if there were any numbers listed near the phone that might help—a doctor's number or that of another family member.

HANDOUT 11-4: Chapter 11 Review

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. responsive | 6. Medic Alert tag |
| 2. open-ended | 7. confidential |
| 3. quality | 8. Vial of Life |
| 4. same level | 9. trauma |
| 5. brief/focused | 10. transport |

HANDOUT 11-5: Assessing Medical Patients

- | Responsive
Medical Patient | Unresponsive
Medical Patient |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A | 1. A |
| 2. D | 2. D |
| 3. C | 3. B |
| 4. F | 4. E |
| 5. G | 5. C |
| 6. E | 6. F |

HANDOUT 11-6: Focusing on the Focused History

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. E | 5. J | 9. C |
| 2. A | 6. K | 10. B |
| 3. G | 7. F | 11. L |
| 4. H | 8. I | 12. D |