



North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination

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## **QUESTION 1**

Select the class of Anti-diabetic medication that works in the specified organ to prevent hyperglycemia. Select all that applies. Alpha cells in pancreases

- A. Sulfonylureas
- B. Alpha- Glucosidase Inhibitors
- C. DPP4 Inhibitors
- D. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists
- E. Thiazolidinediones
- F. Biguanide
- G. SGLT2 inhibitors

Correct Answer: C

DPP4 Inhibitors, D Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists Sulfonylureas work in beta cells in the pancreas that are still functioning to enhance insulin secretion. Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors stop glucosidase enzymes in the small intestine and delay digestion and absorption of starch and disaccharides which lowers the levels of glucose after meals. DPP4 blocks the degradation ofGLP-1, GIP, and a variety of other peptides, including brain natriuretic peptide. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists work in various organs of the body. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists enhance glucose homeostasis through: (i) stimulation of insulin secretion; (ii) inhibition of glucagon secretion; (iii) direct and indirect suppression of endogenous glucose production; (iv) suppression of appetite; (v) enhanced insulin sensitivity secondary to weight loss; (vi) delayed gastric emptying, resulting in decreased postprandial hyperglycaemia. Thiazolidinediones are the only true insulin-sensitising agents, exerting their effects in skeletal and cardiac muscle, liver, and adipose tissue. It ameliorates insulin resistance, decreases visceral fat. Biguanides work in liver, muscle, adipose tissue via activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) reduce hepatic glucose production. SGLT2 inhibitors work in the kidneys to inhibit sodium-glucose transport proteins to reabsorb glucose into the blood from muscle cells; overall this helps to improve insulin release from the beta cells of the pancreas.

Reference: https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehv239

# **QUESTION 2**

Before use, which of the following products should be used to clean surfaces of a laminar flow hood?

- A. 95% ethyl alcohol
- B. 70% isopropyl alcohol
- C. Purified water
- D. Purified WFI
- Correct Answer: B

Before each use, 70% isopropyl alcohol should be used to clean surfaces of a laminar flow hood.



### **QUESTION 3**

A 15-year-old presents with 6 days of nasal congestion with thin, clear rhinorrhea. She notes mild facial pain but has had no fevers. She feels her symptoms are improving.

What is the most likely cause of her symptoms?

- A. Streptococcus pneumoniae
- B. Viral
- C. Moraxella catarrhalis
- D. Haemophilus influenzae
- E. Staphylococcus aureus

Correct Answer: B

This patient shows symptoms of acute sinusitis. The most common etiology of which is viruses. Indications that an infection is viral as opposed to bacterial included a shorter infection tie (less than 10 days) and no purulent discharge (hers is watery). She does not show any evidence of a complication developing and even notes that her symptoms are improving. If her symptoms were attributed to a bacterium, then the most common cause of acute sinusitis is Streptococcus pneumoniae followed by Haemophilus influenza, then Moraxella catarrhalis. Anaerobic species such as Bacteroides fragilis and Staphylococcus aureus are more commonly found in patients with chronic sinusitis (sinusitis lasting longer than 12 weeks). This is important to realize before indiscriminately providing antibiotics for these patients.

#### **QUESTION 4**

A 55-year-old female is receiving chemotherapy for metastatic carcinoma. She threatens to stop her treatment because of severe nausea and vomiting. The oncologist plans to use prochlorperazine to reduce the nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapeutic agents. What is the mechanism of action of prochlorperazine?

- A. Serotonin 5-HT3 antagonist
- B. Blocking dopamine receptors
- C. Cannabinoids related
- D. Blockage of prostaglandins
- E. H2 receptor antagonist

#### Correct Answer: B

B: A variety of drugs have been found to be of some value in the prevention and treatment of vomiting, especially cancer chemotherapy-induced vomiting. With the exception of thioridazine, most of the neuroleptic drugs have antiemetic effects that are mediated by blocking D2 dopaminergic receptors of the chemoreceptor trigger zone of the medulla. Phenothiazines, such as prochlorperazine, were the first drugs shown to be effective antiemetic agents and act by blocking dopamine receptors. They are effective against low to moderately emetogenic chemotherapeutic agents (for example, fluorouracil and doxorubicin). Although increasing the dose improves antiemetic activity, side effects, including hypotension and restlessness, are dose limiting. Other adverse reactions include extrapyramidal symptom and sedation. A: Serotonin 5-HT3 antagonist is incorrect. The specific antagonists of the 5-HT3 receptor, ondansetron and



granisetron, selectively block 5-HT3 receptors in the periphery and in the brain (chemoreceptor trigger zone). C: Cannabinoids related is incorrect. Cannabinoids are marijuana derivatives including dronabinol and nabilone and are effective against moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. However, they are seldom first-line antiemetics because of serious side effects. D: Blockage of prostaglandins is incorrect. Dexamethasone and methylprednisolone used alone are effective against mildly to moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. Their antiemetic mechanism is not known, but it may involve blockade of prostaglandins. E: H2 receptor antagonist is incorrect. Antagonists of histamine H2 receptor block the action of histamine at all H2 receptors; their chief clinical use is as inhibitors of gastric acid secretion.

# **QUESTION 5**

If a patient is getting NS IVF at 120mls/hr, how much Sodium Chloride in grams is this patient getting in 24 hours? NS is 0.9% sodium chloride.

- A. 25.92gm
- B. 25.92kg
- C. 25.92mg
- D. 90mg
- E. 90gm
- Correct Answer: A

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