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QUESTION 1

A 48-year-old woman had a biopsy of a friable, bleeding lesion on her cervix. She had not had a pelvic examination or Pap smear for about 12 years. The biopsy is reported as invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix. On bimanual examination, there is induration to the side wall of her pelvis.

To complete the staging of her cancer according to International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) standards, she should have which of the following?

- A. lymphangiogram
- B. pelvic venogram
- C. cystoscopy
- D. magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan of her abdomen
- E. laparoscopy

Correct Answer: C

The intent of staging is to judge the results of various treatments and to compare treatment results worldwide. Because advanced procedures such as venography, lymphangiography, MRI or CT scans, and laparoscopy are not universally available, staging of cervical cancer remains primarily clinical. Such tests as cystoscopy, proctosigmoidoscopy, barium enema, IVP, and plain radiographs of the abdomen and chest are permitted. Evidence of mucosal cancer confirmed by biopsy at the time of cystoscopy changes her diagnosis to stage IV cervical cancer.

QUESTION 2

For each antihypertensive agent listed below, select the set of undesirable side effects with which it is most commonly associated with amlodipine

- A. cough, hyperkalemia, angioedema
- B. positive Coombs test, hemolytic anemia, hepatitis
- C. hypokalemia, hyperuricemia, hyperglycemia
- D. peripheral edema, flushing, and constipation
- E. increased angina, tachycardia, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

Correct Answer: D

All of the drugs used to treat hypertension can cause adverse reactions, ranging from trivial to life threatening. Thiazide diuretics are associated with hypokalemia, causing arrhythmias; hyperuricemia causing gout; and hyperglycemia due to insulin resistance. The vasodilator hydralazine can cause tachycardia with increased angina and a lupuslike syndrome. As many as 10% of patients on angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors develop an annoying dry cough. Because they block aldosterone, they can lead to hyperkalemia. ACE inhibitors cause 10-25% of all cases of angioedema. Peripheral edema is the most commonly reported side effect of calcium channel blockers, especially amlodipine and nifedipine. Constipation, flushing, and dizziness are also frequently reported. Coombs'-positive hemolytic anemia and hepatitis are idiosyncratic reactions to the central adrenergic-stimulant methyldopa.

**QUESTION 3**

Many patients you see in your practice live in homes built prior to 1977. In compliance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, at which of the following ages will you start the relevant routine lead screening of the children?

- A. birth
- B. 3 months of age
- C. 12 months of age
- D. entry to preschool
- E. entry to first grade

Correct Answer: C

Lead-based paint was banned from use in residential homes in 1977, and children exposed to environments built before that time should be screened for lead. The age at which children most frequently ingest the largest amounts of lead is during the crawling and walking stage, which is also the oral-anal stage of development that occurs between the ages of 6 months and 2 years. Until children are mobile, they are unlikely to come into contact with objects that might have been coated with lead-based paint. Current guidelines recommend screening beginning at 1 year of age in high-risk populations. Lead levels generally peak at about 2 years of age. After 2 years, children normally have less tendency to put unusual objects and soiled fingers in their mouths.

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**

Catfish caught in a freshwater stream in Florida has been identified as exceeding the action level for polychlorinated biphenyls in fish (PCBs). Which regulatory agency is responsible for defining these action levels?

- 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: C

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 chlorophenothane (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 USDA enforces 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).

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