

TCRN Sample Questions

The following 10 sample questions are presented to demonstrate the format used on the TCRN exam and how questions reflect the nursing process. These sample items are not intended to reflect the difficulty of the actual questions on the TCRN exam. The preferred response is indicated in boldface type.

1. What is the target intracranial pressure reading for a patient with a severe brain injury who is being given pentobarbital (Nembutal)?

- A. 5 mm Hg
- B. 10 mm Hg
- C. 15 mm Hg**
- D. 20 mm Hg

2. A patient with extensive facial fractures presents with copious bleeding from the oropharynx and is unable to maintain a patent airway. Endotracheal intubation has been unsuccessful. A nurse should anticipate a bedside

- A. needle cricothyrotomy.
- B. surgical tracheostomy.
- C. video laryngoscopy.
- D. surgical cricothyrotomy.**

3. An intubated patient is being transferred to the ICU after a motor vehicle crash. He received aggressive fluid resuscitation. Results of a FAST exam in the emergency department were negative. Assessment at this time reveals marked abdominal distention, oliguria, and significant tachycardia with hypotension. In investigating the most likely etiology, the nurse would expect to obtain

- A. chest radiograph.
- B. bladder pressure measurement.**
- C. abdominal radiograph.
- D. renal ultrasound.

4. The decrease of venous return and cardiac output in neurogenic shock is caused by

- A. loss of deep tendon reflexes.
- B. massive vasoconstriction.
- C. release of norepinephrine.
- D. inhibition of sympathetic innervation.**

5. A patient presents with pelvic instability and a Glasgow Coma Scale score of 14 (E4, V4, M6) after being hit by a car. Vital signs are as follows:

BP 88/57 mm Hg

HR 127 beats/min

RR 12 breaths/min Temperature 97.0°F (36.1°C)

The patient remains hypotensive and tachycardic despite initiation of the massive transfusion protocol. A chest radiograph is normal, and results of a FAST exam are negative. The nurse should anticipate an order for transfer to

- A. surgery.
- B. ICU.
- C. interventional radiology.**
- D. CT.

6. Which of the following best describes the focus of secondary injury prevention?

- A. enhancement of outcomes related to the traumatic injury
- B. reduction in the severity of the injury that has occurred**
- C. prevention of the occurrence of the injury
- D. improvement of outcomes related to non-traumatic injuries

7. Compared to a patient who is exposed to a highly acidic liquid, a patient who is exposed to a highly alkaline liquid requires

- A. decontamination before treatment is initiated.
- B. the nurse to don safety equipment before treating the patient.
- C. application of a neutralizing agent.
- D. continuous irrigation for more than 20 minutes.**

8. A child is admitted for upper respiratory symptoms. The nurse notes circumferential bruising around the ankle. The parents say it was caused by jumping rope with a sibling. The nurse's most appropriate course of action is to

- A. contact child protective services.**
- B. document findings in the nursing notes.
- C. separate the parents from the child immediately.
- D. notify hospital security to monitor the child's safety.

9. Administering IV crystalloids and vasopressin (Pitressin) to a patient who has been declared brain dead is to

- A. stabilize body temperature.
- B. stop cerebral salt wasting.
- C. reverse diabetes insipidus.**
- D. increase circulating glucose.

10. Which of the following findings on initial assessment is a late manifestation of a tension pneumothorax?

- A. cyanosis.**
- B. chest pain.
- C. respiratory distress.
- D. unilateral absence of breath sounds