

# NCLEX-RN<sup>Q&As</sup>

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### QUESTION 1

With a geriatric client, the nurse should also assess whether he has been obtaining a yearly vaccination against influenza. Why is this assessment important?

- A. Influenza is growing in our society.
- B. Older clients generally are sicker than others when stricken with flu.
- C. Older clients have less effective immune systems.
- D. Older clients have more exposure to the causative agents.

Correct Answer: C

(A) Although influenza is common, the elderly are more at risk because of decreased effectiveness of their immune system, not because the incidence is increasing. (B) Older clients have the same degree of illness when stricken as other populations. (C) As people age, their immune system becomes less effective, increasing their risk for influenza. (D) Older clients have no more exposure to the causative agents than do school-age children, for example.

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### QUESTION 2

A male client was diagnosed 6 months ago with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The progression of the disease has been aggressive. He is unable to maintain his personal hygiene without assistance. Ambulation is most difficult, requiring him to use a wheelchair and rely on assistance for mobility. He recently has become severely dysphasic. Nursing interventions for dysphasia would be aimed toward prevention of:

- A. Loss of ability to speak and communicate effectively
- B. Aspiration and weight loss
- C. Secondary infection resulting from poor oral hygiene
- D. Drooling

Correct Answer: B

(A) Loss of ability to speak is not dysphasia. Although the client may have difficulty communicating, alternative measures can be developed to enhance communication. This goal, while important, is of a lesser priority. (B) Dysphasia is difficulty swallowing, which could result in aspiration of food and inability to eat, causing weight loss. (C) A secondary infection could result from poor oral hygiene, which could enhance the client's inability to eat, but this goal is of a lesser priority. (D) Drooling normally occurs in clients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and may require suctioning. Drooling, while aggravating for the client, does not pose an immediate danger.

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### QUESTION 3

A 47-year-old client has been admitted to the general surgery unit for bowel obstruction. The doctor has ordered that an NG tube be inserted to aid in bowel de-compression. When preparing to insert a NG tube, the nurse measures from the:

- A. Lower lip to the shoulder to the upper sternum

- B. Tip of the nose to the lower lip to the umbilicus
- C. End of the tube to the first measurement line on the tube
- D. Tip of the nose to the ear lobe to the xiphoid process or midepigastic area

Correct Answer: D

(A) This measurement is 50 cm (19.7 in). Fifty centimeters is considered the length necessary for the distal end of the tube to be in place in the stomach. This measurement is too short. (B) This measurement is 50 cm (19.7 in). Fifty centimeters is considered the length necessary for the distal end of the tube to be in place in the stomach. This measurement is too short. (C) This measurement gives an approximate indication of the length necessary for the distal end of the tube to be in place in the stomach, but it is not as accurate as actually measuring the client (nose-ear-xiphoid). (D) This is the correct measurement of 50 cm from the tip of the client's nose to the tip of the earlobe to the xiphoid process (called the NEX [nose-ear-xiphoid] measurement). It is approximately equal to the distance necessary for the distal end of the tube to be located in the correct position in the stomach.

#### QUESTION 4

A male client has experienced low back pain for several years. He is the primary support of his wife and six children. Although he would qualify for disability, he plans to continue his employment as long as possible. His back pain has increased recently, and he is unable to control it with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents. He refuses surgery and cannot take narcotics and remain alert enough to concentrate at work. His physician has suggested application of a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) unit. Which of the following is an appropriate rationale for using a TENS unit for relief of pain?

- A. TENS units have an ultrasonic effect that relaxes muscles, decreases joint stiffness, and increases range of motion.
- B. TENS units produce endogenous opioids that affect the central nervous system with analgesic potency comparable to morphine.
- C. TENS units work on the gate-control theory of pain; biostimulation therapy of large fibers block painful stimuli.
- D. TENS units prevent muscle spasms, decrease the potential for further injury, and minimize pressure on joints.

Correct Answer: C

(A) TENS units do not have this effect, but whirlpool therapy does. (B) TENS units do not produce endogenous opioids, only the body can do that. (C) TENS units do work based on the gate control theory of pain control. (D) TENS units do not have this effect, but possibly changing the client's position would.

#### QUESTION 5

A schizophrenic is admitted to the psychiatric unit. What affect would the nurse expect to observe?

- A. Anger
- B. Apathy and flatness
- C. Smiling
- D. Hostility

Correct Answer: B

(A) Anger is an emotion that is not necessarily present in schizophrenia. (B) Lack of response to or involvement with environment and distancing are characteristic of schizophrenia. (C) Euphoria is more characteristic of manic-depressive disorder (bipolar disorder). (D) Hostility is an emotion that is not necessarily present in schizophrenia.

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