



NCLEX ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME PRACTICE EXAM

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1. The nurse is admitting a patient who is complaining of chest pain to the emergency department (ED). Which information collected by the nurse suggests that the pain is caused by an acute myocardial infarction (AMI)?

- A) The pain worsens when the patient raises the arms.
- B) The pain increases with deep breathing.
- C) The pain is relieved after the patient takes nitroglycerin.
- D) The pain has persisted longer than 30 minutes.

Correct Answer: D

2. A patient is admitted to the ED after an episode of severe chest pain, and the physician schedules the patient for coronary angiography and possible percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). The nurse prepares the patient for the procedure by explaining that it is used to

- A) determine whether there are any structural defects in the chambers of the heart.
- B) locate any coronary artery obstructions and administer thrombolytic agents.
- C) measure the amount of blood being pumped from the heart with each contraction.
- D) visualize any coronary artery blockages and dilate any obstructed arteries.

Correct Answer: D

3. Which information given by a patient admitted with chronic stable angina will help the nurse confirm this diagnosis?

- A) The patient rates the pain at a level 3 to 5 (0-10 scale).
- B) The patient states that the pain "wakes me up at night."
- C) The patient indicates that the pain is resolved after taking one sublingual nitroglycerin tablet.
- D) The patient says that the frequency of the pain has increased over the last few weeks.

Correct Answer: C

4. Which electrocardiographic (ECG) change will be of most concern to the nurse when admitting a patient with chest pain?

- A) Sinus tachycardia
- B) Inverted T wave
- C) ST-segment elevation
- D) Frequent PACs

Correct Answer: C

5. When caring for a patient with ACS who has returned to the coronary care unit after having a PCI, the nurse obtains these assessment data. Which data indicate the need for immediate intervention by the nurse?

- A) Heart rate 100 beats/min
- B) Chest pain level 8 on a 10-point scale
- C) Blood pressure (BP) 104/56 mm Hg
- D) Pedal pulses 2+

Correct Answer: B

6. In developing a teaching plan for a patient who has stable angina and is started on sublingual nitroglycerin (Nitrostat), the nurse identifies an expected patient outcome of

- A) stating that nitroglycerin is to be taken only if chest pain develops.
- B) listing the side effects of nitroglycerin as gastric upset and dry mouth.
- C) identifying the need to call the emergency medical services (EMS) if chest pain persists 5 minutes after taking nitroglycerin.
- D) recognizes that taking the nitroglycerin is important to decrease the ongoing atherosclerosis of the coronary arteries.

Correct Answer: C

7. After the nurse teaches the patient about the use of atenolol (Tenormin) in

preventing anginal episodes, which statement by a patient indicates that the teaching has been effective?

- A) "Atenolol will increase the strength of my heart muscle."
- B) "I can expect to feel short of breath when taking atenolol."
- C) "Atenolol will improve the blood flow to my coronary arteries."
- D) "It is important not to suddenly stop taking the atenolol."

Correct Answer: D

8. A patient who has had severe chest pain for the last 4 hours is admitted with a diagnosis of possible AMI. Which of these ordered laboratory tests should the nurse monitor to help determine whether the patient has had an MI?

- A) Troponin levels
- B) C-reactive protein
- C) High-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol
- D) Homocysteine

Correct Answer: A

9. Nifedipine (Procardia) is ordered for a patient with newly diagnosed Prinzmetal's (variant) angina. When teaching the patient, the nurse will include the information that Procardia will

- A) help to prevent clotting in the coronary arteries.
- B) decrease spasm of the coronary arteries.
- C) increase the force of myocardial contraction.
- D) reduce the "fight or flight" response.

Correct Answer: B

10. A patient with chronic stable angina is being treated with metoprolol (Lopressor). The nurse will suspect that the patient is experiencing a side effect of the metoprolol if

- A) the patient is restless and agitated.
- B) the BP is 190/110 mm Hg.
- C) the cardiac monitor shows a heart rate of 45.
- D) the patient complains about feeling anxious.

Correct Answer: C