

Internal Medicine Sample Items

1. A previously healthy 67-year-old man is admitted to the hospital because of lethargy, confusion, muscle cramps, and decreased appetite for 7 days. He appears ill. His temperature is 37°C (98.6°F), pulse is 98/min, respirations are 20/min, and blood pressure is 120/70 mm Hg. Breath sounds are diminished at the right lung base. Neurologic examination shows no abnormalities except for lethargy. Serum studies show:

Na ⁺	114 mEq/L
K ⁺	4.3 mEq/L
Creatinine	1 mg/dL
Thyroid-stimulating hormone	4.1 μU/mL

An x-ray of the chest shows a 2-cm nodule in the right lower lobe and mediastinal adenopathy. A biopsy specimen of the nodule is most likely to show which of the following?

- (A) Adenocarcinoma
 - (B) Clear cell carcinoma
 - (C) Mesothelioma
 - (D) Small cell carcinoma
 - (E) Squamous cell carcinoma
2. A 67-year-old woman is brought to the emergency department because of severe chest pain 4 hours after undergoing outpatient endoscopy and dilatation of an esophageal stricture caused by reflux. At discharge, she reported no chest pain. Three hours later, she vomited a small amount of blood and had severe pain. She is pale. Her temperature is 38°C (100.4°F), pulse is 125/min, respirations are 22/min, and blood pressure is 140/85 mm Hg. Examination shows crepitus in the neck and moderate epigastric tenderness. The lungs are clear to auscultation, and breath sounds are equal bilaterally. Rectal examination shows no masses; test of the stool for occult blood is positive. Which of the following is the most likely cause of these symptoms?
- (A) Bleeding from erosive esophagitis
 - (B) Esophageal perforation
 - (C) Mallory-Weiss syndrome
 - (D) Myocardial infarction
 - (E) Perforated gastric ulcer
3. A 72-year-old woman is brought to the emergency department 1 hour after the sudden onset of right facial droop and weakness of the right arm and leg. She takes captopril for hypertension and daily aspirin. Her pulse is 80/min, respirations are 16/min, and blood pressure is 150/90 mm Hg. Examination shows a left carotid bruit and right central facial paralysis. There is moderate expressive aphasia. A CT scan of the head shows no abnormalities. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial pharmacotherapy?
- (A) Oral ticlopidine
 - (B) Oral warfarin
 - (C) Sublingual nifedipine
 - (D) Intravenous nitroprusside
 - (E) Intravenous tissue plasminogen activator
4. One day after undergoing cholecystectomy, a 37-year-old man becomes increasingly tremulous and anxious. He is irritable with the staff and moves around restlessly in bed. He has no previous history of serious medical illness and takes no medications. He does not smoke. His temperature is 37.4°C (99.4°F), pulse is 120/min, and blood pressure is 160/100 mm Hg. Physical examination shows a well-healing incision without erythema. He is oriented to person but not to place or time. Administration of which of the following is the most appropriate next step in management?
- (A) Intravenous ceftriaxone
 - (B) Oral buspirone
 - (C) Oral diazepam
 - (D) Oral naltrexone
 - (E) Oral phentolamine
 - (F) Oral sertraline

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5. Fourteen hours after admission to the hospital for treatment of severe hypertension, a 32-year-old woman has stridor. On admission, she was given captopril. She appears anxious. Her pulse is 140/min, respirations are 32/min, and blood pressure is 140/85 mm Hg. Examination shows swelling of the lips and tongue. Diffuse stridorous wheezes are heard on auscultation. There is diminished air movement. Which of the following is the most appropriate next step in management?
- (A) Observation only
 - (B) Measurement of serum captopril concentration
 - (C) Measurement of serum IgE concentration
 - (D) X-ray of the chest
 - (E) Tracheal intubation

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Answer Form for Internal Medicine Advanced Clinical Sample Questions

(Questions 1–5)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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Answer Key for Internal Medicine Advanced Clinical Sample Questions

(Questions 1–5)

1. D
2. B
3. E
4. C
5. E