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## Nursing ANCC Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist Certification (ACNS) Sample Questions (Q182-Q187):

### NEW QUESTION # 182

Which of the following may be administered to a patient who is presenting an arrhythmia after an MI?

- A. Pindolol
- **B. Disopyramide**
- C. Heparin
- D. Nitroglycerin

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Disopyramide is a medication used to treat certain types of serious (life-threatening) irregular heartbeat such as persistent ventricular tachycardia. It works by slowing the electrical conduction in the heart, stabilizing the heart rhythm, and maintaining a regular, steady

heartbeat. Following a myocardial infarction (MI), or heart attack, patients may develop arrhythmias, which are abnormalities in the rhythm of the heart. Disopyramide can be administered to these patients to help manage these arrhythmias, particularly if they are symptomatic or pose a risk to the patient's health.

Nitroglycerin, on the other hand, is primarily used to manage angina (chest pain) and other conditions where the heart muscle is not getting enough blood. It works by dilating blood vessels to improve blood flow. While nitroglycerin does help alleviate chest pain associated with a heart attack, it does not directly address arrhythmias and hence is not typically used solely for arrhythmia management post-MI.

Heparin is an anticoagulant, or a blood thinner, used to prevent the formation of blood clots. After a heart attack, the risk of blood clots increases, which can lead to further heart damage or complications like stroke. Although heparin is critical in the acute management of myocardial infarction to prevent further clotting, it does not directly treat arrhythmias. Its use is vital in the overall management of heart attack patients but not specifically for correcting abnormal heart rhythms.

Pindolol is a type of beta-blocker used to treat high blood pressure and chest pain, but it is also effective in some cases for controlling heart rate in patients with arrhythmia. Beta-blockers can be helpful post-MI for reducing the workload on the heart and improving survival rates. However, their primary role is not to restore normal heart rhythm but rather to manage the underlying conditions contributing to heart disease and to prevent further cardiac events.

In summary, among the options provided, disopyramide is specifically suited for treating arrhythmias that may occur after a myocardial infarction. It directly targets the electrical impulses of the heart to stabilize the heart's rhythm, making it an appropriate choice for arrhythmia management in this context.

### NEW QUESTION # 183

A patient has no functional problems. There is, however, potential for problems later. What type of diagnosis is appropriate?

- A. None.
- B. Actual.
- C. Wellness.
- **D. Risk.**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

In the medical field, diagnoses are typically categorized to best describe and manage a patient's current and potential health conditions. When a patient does not currently exhibit any functional problems but has factors that could lead to health issues in the future, the appropriate type of diagnosis is a "Risk Diagnosis."

**\*\*Risk Diagnosis\*\*** - This type of diagnosis is used when a patient's medical assessment reveals potential for health problems that could develop if certain interventions are not implemented. Unlike an "Actual Diagnosis," which is based on evident symptoms or issues, a risk diagnosis anticipates problems before they manifest based on current risk factors. These factors could be genetic, environmental, lifestyle-related, or related to other pre-existing conditions that might predispose the individual to developing specific health issues.

For instance, consider a patient with a strong family history of diabetes but who currently shows no symptoms of the disease. Although the patient is presently healthy, the genetic predisposition indicates a higher risk of developing diabetes in the future. In such cases, a healthcare provider might use a risk diagnosis to start preventive measures such as advising lifestyle changes, monitoring blood sugar levels, or educating the patient about managing potential symptoms.

**\*\*Significance of Risk Diagnosis\*\*** - The primary purpose of a risk diagnosis is preventive. It serves to identify and mitigate possible future complications early on. By addressing these risks proactively, healthcare providers can significantly reduce the likelihood of these potential issues becoming actual health problems. This proactive approach not only contributes to better long-term health outcomes for the patient but can also decrease potential healthcare costs associated with treating advanced conditions.

**\*\*Implementation\*\*** - Implementing a risk diagnosis involves a detailed evaluation of the patient's medical history, family history, lifestyle, and any other factors that might contribute to future health problems. Based on this assessment, healthcare providers develop a management plan that often includes regular monitoring, health education, and preventive measures tailored to the specific risks identified.

To sum up, a risk diagnosis is crucial for patients who are currently symptom-free but have identified factors that could potentially lead to health issues. It is a proactive medical approach focused on prevention, helping to ensure that potential health problems are managed before they develop into significant concerns.

### NEW QUESTION # 184

A patient who loses consciousness is MOST likely to exhibit what?

- **A. Plateau wave.**

- B. B wave.
- C. C wave.
- D. Cheyne-Stoke.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When considering the clinical indicators that a patient who loses consciousness might display, understanding the relationship between intracranial pressure (ICP) and different wave patterns can be crucial. Among the various types of waves observed in intracranial pressure monitoring, plateau waves, also known as A waves, are particularly significant.

Plateau waves are a type of intracranial pressure waveform that is indicative of severe increases in ICP. Typically, these waves have an amplitude that dramatically rises to over 40 mm Hg, persists at this elevated level for a period, and then returns to baseline, often while the baseline itself is elevated. This pattern reflects a critical state of compromised cerebral autoregulation and brain compliance. The mechanism behind plateau waves involves a decrease in cerebral perfusion pressure due to the abrupt rise in ICP, which can lead to decreased cerebral blood flow. If the ICP remains high for prolonged periods, this can result in ischemia (insufficient blood supply) to brain tissues. The body attempts to compensate by transiently increasing cerebral blood volume, which further elevates ICP, thus creating a cycle that can lead to worsening brain damage if not promptly managed.

Clinically, patients experiencing plateau waves are likely to exhibit a range of symptoms primarily driven by the elevated ICP and reduced cerebral perfusion. The most critical of these symptoms is the loss of consciousness, which occurs due to the global reduction in cerebral blood flow affecting the brain's ability to function normally. Other associated symptoms include severe headaches, which result from the stretching of pain-sensitive structures within the cranium due to increased ICP, and altered motor movements, which may appear as weaknesses or changes in muscle tone and reflexes due to the pressure on various brain areas controlling motor functions.

In medical monitoring and management, recognizing the presence of plateau waves is vital as it signals the need for immediate intervention to reduce ICP and restore adequate cerebral perfusion. Treatments may include medications to reduce brain swelling, surgical interventions to relieve pressure, or specialized maneuvers to optimize patient positioning and enhance venous drainage from the brain.

In summary, a patient who loses consciousness due to severe intracranial pressure is most likely exhibiting plateau waves. These waves are a critical indicator of dangerously high ICP and necessitate urgent medical attention to prevent long-term neurological damage or fatality. Understanding and identifying these waves can significantly influence the outcomes for patients with severe head injuries or other conditions leading to increased intracranial pressure.

### NEW QUESTION # 185

The Scope of Practice for the CNS is an important concept of the professional role. Which of the following is NOT true regarding it?

- A. General scope of practice is specified in many published professional documents like the Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing, 1996.
- B. Broad variation exists from state to state concerning the Scope of CNS Practice.
- C. The Scope of practice of pediatric nurse practitioners (PCNS) is the same as that for gerontological nurse practitioner (GCNS).
- D. Many organizations have completed role delineation studies which attempt to qualify the core behaviors that all advanced practice nurses must possess.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The Scope of Practice for Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) is a critical aspect of their professional role, outlining the parameters within which they are authorized to practice. It defines the duties and responsibilities that a CNS is competent to perform, which are based on their education, training, and certification.

Many organizations have completed role delineation studies, which are designed to identify the core competencies necessary for all advanced practice nurses, including CNSs. These studies help ensure that CNSs across various specialties are equipped with a foundational set of skills and knowledge pertinent to advanced nursing practice. However, while role delineation studies establish core behaviors, they do not homogenize the scope of practice across all specialties.

The statement that the Scope of Practice for pediatric Clinical Nurse Specialists (PCNS) is the same as that for gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialists (GCNS) is incorrect. This highlights a fundamental misunderstanding of how specialty areas within nursing influence the scope of practice. Pediatric and gerontological CNSs, while sharing some core skills and knowledge, have distinct areas of expertise and cater to very different populations with unique health needs. PCNSs focus on child health, development, and diseases specific to children and adolescents, whereas GCNSs specialize in the care of elderly populations, addressing complex chronic conditions, geriatric syndromes, and the nuances of aging.

General scope of practice guidelines are often outlined in professional documents like the Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing. These documents provide a framework but are adapted to the specific requirements and regulations of each state and specialty. This means that the scope of practice can vary significantly, not just between specialties like pediatric and gerontological nursing but also from state to state based on local laws and regulations.

Therefore, it is imperative to recognize the specialized nature of each nursing practice area. Asserting that the scope of practice for different CNS specialties is the same overlooks the specialized training and tailored approaches necessary to address the distinct health concerns of different patient populations effectively. Each specialty area within CNS practice is detailed with specific competencies that align with the needs of the patient demographics they serve. Understanding and respecting these distinctions is crucial for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the nursing profession.

#### NEW QUESTION # 186

Of the following, what is expected of a patient undergoing conscious sedation?

- A. He is not easily aroused but may be able to respond to painful stimulation. May require intervention to maintain airway. Cardiovascular function is still in tact.
- B. He is able to normally respond to verbal commands. Ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are normal, however, he may be somewhat impaired cognitively.
- **C. He is able to respond to verbal commands with or without physical stimuli. Not necessary to intervene in order to maintain the patient's airway.**
- D. He is not arousable and may require assistance maintaining an airway. Cardiovascular function may be affected.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Conscious sedation, also known as moderate sedation or procedural sedation, is a medically controlled state of depressed consciousness used often in minor surgeries or during diagnostic procedures. While under conscious sedation, patients remain awake enough to follow simple instructions and respond to verbal cues, yet they are relaxed and may not remember the procedure afterward.

The correct answer to the question regarding the expected state of a patient under conscious sedation is: "He is able to respond to verbal commands with or without physical stimuli. Not necessary to intervene in order to maintain the patient's airway." This statement accurately describes the typical responsiveness and airway control expected in a patient undergoing conscious sedation. During conscious sedation, the patient can communicate discomfort and cooperate with instructions, which helps the medical team adjust the level of sedation as needed. It is crucial in conscious sedation that the patient's airway remains unobstructed and functions independently. Generally, the patient does not require assistance for breathing, unlike deeper levels of sedation or anesthesia where mechanical ventilation might be necessary.

Contrasting other sedation levels helps clarify this point: - Minimal sedation: This is a lighter sedation where the patient is fully awake and able to respond normally to verbal commands. Cognitive function and coordination may be mildly impaired, but ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. - Deep sedation: In this state, the patient is not easily aroused but can respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation. The patient might require assistance in maintaining an open airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained. - General anesthesia: The patient is not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The patient often requires assistance in maintaining an airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be necessary because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

Thus, understanding these distinctions is critical for medical professionals to manage the level of sedation appropriately and ensure patient safety during medical procedures. The ability to respond to verbal commands with or without physical stimuli and maintaining airway independence without intervention distinctly characterizes the state of conscious sedation.

#### NEW QUESTION # 187

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