



Medical Technology

NBSTSA-CSFA Exam

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Surgical First Assistant

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Question 1. (Single Select)

A patient in the operating room is undergoing a procedure that requires anticoagulation. Which of the following agents is most commonly used to maintain anticoagulation during surgery?

- A: Heparin
- B: Warfarin
- C: Clopidogrel
- D: Aspirin

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Heparin is the most commonly used anticoagulant during surgery to prevent clot formation and ensure adequate anticoagulation. It acts rapidly and can be administered intravenously, making it ideal for maintaining anticoagulation during surgical procedures. Its quick onset and ability to be easily monitored make heparin a preferred choice in the surgical setting where immediate anticoagulation is necessary.

Warfarin is an oral anticoagulant that requires several days to reach therapeutic levels, making it impractical for immediate anticoagulation in surgery.

Aspirin and clopidogrel are both antiplatelet agents that prevent platelet aggregation but do not provide the comprehensive anticoagulation required during surgical procedures. Their mechanisms focus on inhibiting platelet function rather than directly affecting the coagulation cascade, which is important in surgical anticoagulation management.

Question 2. (Single Select)

Which of the following is a crucial indicator that a sterile package may have been compromised?

- A: Labeling that only includes the sterilization date
- B: Visible contamination on the equipment
- C: Another piece of equipment was placed on top of the sterile package

D: Presence of moisture on the package

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

The presence of moisture on the package is a crucial indicator that a sterile package may have been compromised. Moisture can carry microorganisms into the package, leading to contamination and loss of sterility.

Labeling that includes only the sterilization date does not provide any information about the integrity of the package and thus is not an indicator of compromise.

Visible contamination on the equipment inside the package is a separate issue from the condition of the package itself.

While placing another piece of equipment on top of the sterile package is generally poor practice, it does not necessarily compromise sterility unless it physically damages the packaging.

Question 3. (Single Select)

In an elective knee replacement surgery with no breaks in sterile technique, what classification should be assigned to the surgical wound?

- A: Dirty or infected
- B: Contaminated
- C: Clean-contaminated
- D: Clean

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

An elective knee replacement surgery with no breaks in sterile technique is classified as a clean wound. Clean wounds are characterized by procedures conducted under strict aseptic conditions without entry into contaminated body cavities or exposure to infectious agents.

Clean-contaminated wounds involve entry into areas with normal flora under controlled conditions.

Contaminated wounds involve breaks in technique or spillage, which are not present in this scenario.

Dirty or infected wounds involve existing infections or significant contamination, which is also not present in this scenario.

Question 4. (Single Select)

In the case of chronic kidney disease, which part of the nephron is most likely to show significant damage?

- A: Loop of Henle
- B: Collecting duct
- C: Glomerulus
- D: Proximal convoluted tubule

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

In Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), the glomerulus often suffers the most significant damage. This structure is responsible for the initial filtration of blood in the nephron and, due to the high pressure and filtration load, it is particularly susceptible to injury. Over time, the glomerulus can develop glomerulosclerosis, where the filtering units become scarred and lose their ability to filter blood effectively, leading to a decline in kidney function.

While the proximal convoluted tubule can also be affected by CKD, the primary damage typically occurs in the glomerulus because of its critical filtration role.

The Loop of Henle, which concentrates urine, and the collecting duct, which further processes the urine, are less likely to experience the initial and most significant damage seen in CKD when compared to the glomerulus.

Question 5. (Single Select)

In a situation where there is sudden, unexpected bleeding from a deep tissue layer, what is the best technique to initially control the hemorrhage?

- A: Apply suction to remove the blood from the surgical site
- B: Elevate the affected area
- C: Apply direct digital pressure over the bleeding site
- D: Irrigate the area with saline

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Applying direct digital pressure over the bleeding site is the best technique to initially control hemorrhage from a deep tissue layer, providing immediate hemostasis. This action quickly stabilizes the situation, allowing time for further assessment and definitive hemostasis.

Irrigating the area with saline does not control bleeding and may obscure the site.

Applying suction helps clear the blood but does not control the bleeding.

Elevating the affected area is not practical for deep tissue bleeding and does not provide immediate control.



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