

Chapter # 9: Patient Assessment

1. Which of the following scenarios does NOT involve the presence of any symptoms?
 - A) A 44-year-old male with abdominal pain and severe dizziness
 - B) A 49-year-old female with blurred vision and ringing in the ears
 - C) A 55-year-old male with a severe headache and 2 days of nausea
 - D) A 61-year-old female who is unconscious with facial cyanosis

2. Which of the following actions would NOT be performed during the scene size-up?
 - A) Asking a neighbor to secure the patient's dog
 - B) Rapidly assessing a patient's respiratory status
 - C) Notifying the dispatcher to send fire personnel
 - D) Noting the position of a crashed motor vehicle

3. You are assessing a 72-year-old man with abdominal pain. The patient is sitting in a chair; he is conscious, alert, and calm. As you are talking to the patient, your partner discreetly directs your attention to a handgun, which is located on a nearby table. You should:
 - A) immediately cease all patient care, carefully back out of the residence, and request law enforcement assistance.
 - B) direct your partner to move the gun to a safe area and then advise the patient that his weapon has been secured.
 - C) document the presence of the weapon, including its specific location, and continue your assessment of the patient.
 - D) position yourself in between the patient and the gun and ask your partner to request law enforcement assistance.

4. Which of the following statements regarding the mechanism of injury (MOI) is correct?
 - A) A nonsignificant MOI rules out the possibility of serious trauma.
 - B) The MOI may allow you to predict the severity of a patient's injuries.
 - C) The exact location of a patient's injuries can be determined by the MOI.
 - D) A significant MOI always results in patient death or permanent disability.

5. During an EMS call, you should take standard precautions:
 - A) before you load the patient into the ambulance.
 - B) after it has been determined that the patient is bleeding.
 - C) immediately after completion of your primary assessment.
 - D) before exiting the ambulance and before actual patient contact.

6. Treatment and transport priorities at the scene of a mass-casualty incident should be determined after:
- A) a physician arrives at the scene.
 - B) the number of patients is known.
 - C) all the patients have been triaged.
 - D) area hospitals have been notified.
7. When approaching a 32-year-old male who is complaining of traumatic neck pain, you should:
- A) ensure that the patient can see you approaching him.
 - B) approach him from behind and ask him not to move.
 - C) stand behind him and immediately stabilize his head.
 - D) assess his mental status by having him move his head.
8. Which of the following conditions would be LEAST likely to cause an altered level of consciousness?
- A) Drug overdose
 - B) Inadequate perfusion
 - C) Acute anxiety
 - D) Poisoning
9. An elderly patient has fallen and hit her head. Your initial care should focus on:
- A) obtaining baseline vital signs.
 - B) gathering medical history data.
 - C) providing immediate transport.
 - D) airway, breathing, and circulation.
10. An injured patient is assigned a total score of 9 on the GCS. He is assigned a score of 2 for eye opening, a score of 3 for verbal response, and a score of 4 for motor response. Which of the following clinical findings is consistent with his GCS score?
- A) Opens eyes in response to voice, makes incomprehensible sounds, localizes pain
 - B) Opens eyes in response to pain, uses inappropriate words, withdraws from pain
 - C) Opens eyes spontaneously, is confused when spoken to, exhibits abnormal flexion
 - D) Eyes remain closed, makes incomprehensible sounds, exhibits abnormal extension
11. When you shine a light into one pupil, the normal reaction of the other pupil should be to:
- A) dilate.
 - B) not react.
 - C) become larger.
 - D) become smaller.

12. What maneuver should be used to open the airway of an unresponsive patient with suspected trauma?
- A) Tongue-jaw lift
 - B) Jaw-thrust maneuver
 - C) Head tilt–chin lift
 - D) Head tilt–neck lift
13. You should suspect that a patient is experiencing respiratory failure if he or she:
- A) is restless and is working hard to breathe.
 - B) has an increased heart rate and retractions.
 - C) has bradycardia and diminished muscle tone.
 - D) is anxious, tachycardic, and leaning forward.
14. A palpable pulse is created by:
- A) the pressure of circulating blood against the walls of the arteries.
 - B) the pressure that is caused when venous blood returns to the heart.
 - C) pressure waves through the arteries caused by cardiac contraction.
 - D) electrical conduction in the heart producing ventricular contraction.
15. In patients with deeply pigmented skin, changes in color may be apparent only in certain areas, such as the:
- A) back of the neck.
 - B) forehead and face.
 - C) dorsum of the hand.
 - D) lips or oral mucosa.
16. A 39-year-old male sustained a stab wound to the groin during an altercation at a bar. As you approach the patient, you note that he is conscious. He is screaming in pain and is attempting to control the bleeding, which is bright red and spurting from his groin area. You should:
- A) ensure that his airway is patent.
 - B) apply direct pressure to the wound.
 - C) elevate his legs and keep him warm.
 - D) administer 100% supplemental oxygen.
17. The rapid exam of a patient that occurs following the primary assessment should take no longer than:
- A) 30 seconds.
 - B) 60 to 90 seconds.
 - C) 90 to 120 seconds.
 - D) 120 to 180 seconds.

18. The chief complaint is MOST accurately defined as the:
- A) most life-threatening condition that you discover.
 - B) condition that exacerbates an underlying problem.
 - C) most serious thing the patient is concerned about.
 - D) gross physical signs that you detect on assessment.
19. Which of the following statements regarding the secondary assessment is correct?
- A) The secondary assessment should focus on a certain area or region of the body as determined by the chief complaint.
 - B) The secondary assessment should be performed en route to the hospital, regardless of the severity of the patient's condition.
 - C) A secondary assessment should always be performed, even if you must continually manage life threats that were identified in the primary assessment.
 - D) During the secondary assessment, the EMT's primary focus should be on taking the patient's vital signs and obtaining a SAMPLE history.
20. Reassessment is performed to determine all of the following, EXCEPT:
- A) the reason why the patient called EMS.
 - B) the patient's response to your treatment.
 - C) whether or not the patient is deteriorating.
 - D) the nature of any newly identified problems.