Poisoning and Overdose

Handout 23-2: Evaluating Content Mastery  

Student’s Name  

EVALUATION  

CHAPTER 23 QUIZ  

Write the letter of the best answer in the space provided.

1. The annual number of poisoning cases in the United States each year is about:
   A. 1/2 million.        C. 2 million.
   B. 1 million.         D. 5 million.

2. The factor that is LEAST important in determining the effect of a poison is a patient’s:
   A. gender.            C. weight.
   B. age.              D. general health.

3. Carbon monoxide is an example of an:
   A. ingested poison.    C. absorbed poison.
   B. inhaled poison.     D. injected poison.

4. The LEAST acceptable method for providing ventilations to patients who have ingested poisons is use of:
   A. mouth-to-mouth ventilations.
   B. a pocket face mask with a one-way valve.
C. positive pressure ventilation.
D. a bag-valve mask unit with supplemental oxygen.

5. Activated charcoal is indicated in some cases of:
   A. injected poisoning.  
   C. absorbed poisoning.
   B. inhaled poisoning.  
   D. ingested poisoning.

6. Contraindications to activated charcoal include all of the following EXCEPT:
   A. unresponsive.  
   C. inability to swallow.
   B. tachypnea.  
   D. ingestion of an alkali.

7. Modern treatment of ingested poisoning and overdose consists primarily of:
   A. administration of an antidote.  
   C. inducement of vomiting.
   B. prevention of absorption.  
   D. dilution of a poisonous substance.

8. The most frequent victims of poisoning are:
   A. elderly citizens.  
   C. infants and children.
   B. drug abusers.  
   D. teenagers.

9. In treating cases of inhaled poisons, the drug of first choice is:
   A. activated charcoal.  
   C. glucose.
   B. syrup of ipecac.  
   D. oxygen.

10. All the following are typical signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning EXCEPT:
    A. cherry red skin.  
    C. nausea.
    B. cyanosis.  
    D. altered mental status.
11. Sooty sputum, singed nose hairs, hoarseness, and difficulty breathing are signs of:

A. carbon monoxide poisoning.            C. food poisoning.
B. smoke inhalation.                     D. pesticide inhalation.

12. The primary step in treating a patient with absorbed liquid poisoning is:

A. administration of oxygen.            C. neutralization of the acid or alkali.
B. irrigation of the skin.               D. administration of an antidote.

13. All the following are signs and symptoms of alcohol withdrawal EXCEPT:

A. confusion and restlessness.            C. convulsions and seizures.
B. gross tremors of the hands.            D. abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

14. Mind-affecting drugs that act on the central nervous system to distort sensory perceptions are known as:

A. uppers.                               C. narcotics.
B. downers.                              D. hallucinogens.

15. Reduced pulse rate, constricted pupils, profuse sweating, and reduced depth of breathing indicate the possible use of:

A. amphetamines (uppers).                C. hallucinogens.
B. narcotics.                            D. barbiturates (downers).


**IN THE FIELD**

*Read the following real-life situation. Then answer the questions that follow.*

The emergency medical dispatcher sends you to a residence at 32 Hillside Drive. The young woman who placed the 911 call is waiting for you on the doorstep, even though the day is chilly. The woman reports that she dropped by the house to visit her friend Bill Wrye and saw through the window that he was passed out on the couch. The door was unlocked, so she went in to try to wake him but couldn’t. She tells you, “I wanted to stay and help him, but I just started feeling so bad. I felt sick to my stomach and my head hurt, almost like there was a band around it. Then I remembered that Bill had been having trouble with his furnace and was using a kerosene heater until he could get the furnace fixed. So I was afraid maybe something was wrong with the heater and came outside and called 911 from my cell phone. What’s going on?”

1. Based on your scene size-up, what answer would you give the woman?

2. What action(s) would you take?
Write the word or words that best complete each sentence in the space provided.

1. The largest number of poisoning victims are _________________________.

2. Many living organisms, such as mushrooms and a variety of house plants, are capable of producing a(n) _________________________, or substance that is poisonous to humans.

3. In some cases of ingested poisoning, medical direction will order administration of _________________________ ________________________.

4. When a patient has ingested a poison, provide ventilations through a(n) _________________________ with a one-way valve.

5. Many people think that every poison has a(n) _________________________, a substance that will neutralize its effects, but this is not _________________________.

6. Modern treatment for ingested poisoning consists primarily of _________________________ ________________________ ________________________.

7. As an EMT, always assume that an infant or a child has ingested a(n) _________________________ amount of poison.

8. The principal pre-hospital treatment of inhaled poisoning consists of _________________________ ________________________ ________________________ ________________________ and ________________________.
9. ___________________________ ___________________________ is one of the most common inhaled poisons.

10. It must not be forgotten that alcohol is a potent ___________________________ and has a profound effect on the ___________________________ system.

11. The patient suffering from alcohol withdrawal may experience seizures or ___________________________.

12. The patient under the influence of alcohol cannot make a(n) ___________________________ of treatment or transport.

13. ___________________________ stimulates the central nervous system and excite the user, while ___________________________ depresses the central nervous system and relaxes the user.

14. Cleaning fluid, glue, and model cement are commonly abused ___________________________.

15. When treating intravenous drug users, take ___________________________ and follow all ___________________________ procedures.
POISONING AND OVERDOSE LISTING

Complete the following lists.

1. List the four main types of poisons.

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2. List the seven questions that should be asked during assessment of a patient with ingested poisoning.

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3. List three contraindications for administration of activated charcoal.

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4. List the five emergency care steps in treating patients with inhaled poisoning.

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5. List five commonly abused drugs and chemical substances encountered by EMTs in the field.

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POISONING AND OVERDOSE MATCHING

Write the letter of the type of poisoning next to the appropriate scenario below:

A. ingested poisoning
B. inhaled poisoning
C. absorbed poisoning
D. injected poisoning

_____ 1. You are called to a suburban home to assist an 18-year-old male who has been found on the floor of his bathroom. He has a reduced pulse rate and reduced rate of breathing. His pupils are constricted to pinpoint size. He seems very sleepy and unresponsive. There is a homemade tourniquet tied around his upper arm. You find a hypodermic needle behind a clothes hamper.

_____ 2. A 19-year-old male farm worker stumbles while carrying an open drum of pesticides. The powder spills all over his clothes and body. Within minutes, a stinging, burning sensation spreads across his hands, arms, neck, and face. “It’s like being on fire,” he tells another farmhand. “Get some help fast!”

_____ 3. A 38-year-old woman collapses on the floor of her garage while cleaning out her car. She had left the car idling so that she could listen to her favorite radio station without running down the battery. By the time her husband discovers her, the woman is barely breathing. He rushes to call an EMS unit.

_____ 4. A 45-year-old man in extreme pain from a recent back operation decides to double
his self-administered dosage of Demerol. By the end of the day, he feels extremely lethargic and is sweating profusely. His pupils are constricted. Sensing trouble, his teenage son calls the nearest ambulance service.
POISONING AND OVERDOSE TRUE OR FALSE

Indicate if the following statements are true or false by writing T or F in the space provided.

_____ 1. Most poisoning cases result from suicide attempts.

_____ 2. People generally have similar reactions to toxic or poisonous substances.

_____ 3. When providing assisted ventilation in cases of ingested poisoning, an EMT should avoid mouth-to-mouth resuscitations.

_____ 4. Dosages of activated charcoal must be calculated based upon the patient’s body weight.

_____ 5. The primary treatment of a patient who has ingested a poison is administration of an antidote.

_____ 6. The most effective drug for inhaled poisons is oxygen.

_____ 7. A common sign of carbon monoxide poisoning is cherry red skin.

_____ 8. As an EMT, you should contact a poison control center only if local protocols allow.

_____ 9. Under the influence of alcohol, a patient cannot make an informed refusal of treatment or transport.

_____ 10. As an EMT, you will need to know the names of the many abused drugs and their specific reactions.