CHAPTER 37

Patients with Special Challenges

HANDOUT 37-2: Evaluating Content Mastery  Student’s Name

EVALUATION

CHAPTER 37 QUIZ

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

_____ 1. A condition that occurs after birth and may be the result of exposure to
   a virus or bacteria is called a(n):
   A. congenital disease.  C. acquired disease.

_____ 2. An example of a congenital disease is:
   A. cleft palate.  C. COPD.
   B. traumatic spinal cord injury.  D. adult respiratory distress syndrome.

_____ 3. A continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) device provides _____,
   through a tube and mask, to prevent airway passages from collapsing.
   A. intermittent pressure  C. pressure on demand from the patient
   B. constant pressure      D. pressure timed to specific intervals

_____ 4. For which of the following conditions might a person most likely be
   using a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) at home?
   A. asthma  C. pneumonia
   B. tuberculosis  D. sleep apnea

_____ 5. A frequent problem with tracheostomy tubes is a buildup of mucus.
How is this problem usually handled?

A. suctioning  
B. flush with saline
C. blow-in oxygen  
D. transport to hospital only

6. Which of the following is LEAST likely to be knowledgeable of the devices and conditions of a special needs patient?

A. home health aide  
B. neighbor
C. family member  
D. the patient

7. A pacemaker is implanted under the skin and with wires implanted into the heart and is designed to prevent the heart rate from becoming too:

A. fast.  
B. irregular. 
C. slow.  
D. asystolic.

8. Which of the following rhythms is the automatic implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD) designed to detect and correct?

A. asystole  
B. ventricular fibrillation
C. bradycardia  
D. third-degree heart block

9. A patient with a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) has a pump that is usually implanted where?

A. chest  
B. thigh
C. upper arm  
D. abdomen

10. The tube that is surgically implanted and extends into the stomach and is used to provide long-term nutrients as a feeding tube is called a:

A. G-tube.  
B. S-tube.
C. NG-tube.  
D. F-tube.
11. If nutrients are being administered during transport, where should the bag have been placed in relationship to the tube through which the nutrients are being delivered?

A. lower than the tube  
B. at the level of the tube  
C. higher than the tube  
D. the level makes no difference

12. What are the two important roles that dialysis serves?

A. waste removal and fluid removal  
B. waste removal and fluid replacement  
C. provide medication and fluid replacement  
D. provide medication and waste removal

13. Which of the following will probably NOT help with a hearing-impaired patient and possibly could make matters worse?

A. writing questions on a piece of paper  
B. using a TDD/TTY phone  
C. seeing if the patient reads lips  
D. speaking more slowly

14. If the patient has a guide dog that is calm and under control, how should the dog be handled if the patient needs to be transported?

A. Leave the dog and notify someone to take responsibility.  
B. Notify animal control.  
C. Transport the dog with the patient.  
D. Try to get someone else to transport the dog to the hospital.

15. The purpose of an ostomy bag is to provide for:
A. drainage from an abscess.  
B. fecal drainage.  
C. urinary drainage.  
D. bloody discharge and drainage.
Read the following real-life situation. Then answer the questions that follow.

You and another EMT are leaving the hospital after dropping off a patient and are discussing that now would be a good time to get something to eat. Suddenly, the dispatcher sends you on a call to 47 Sunrise Lane for a medical alarm call, (which means that someone at the residence has activated a device requesting EMS assistance). While en route to the call the dispatcher provides you with the following additional information: this is a residence of a 23-year-old male patient who is on a respirator, and it has been reported that the device is not working properly. The dispatcher tells you that he has someone on the phone at the residence and is trying to obtain more information.

1. What additional information would be helpful?

The dispatcher tells you that the patient is getting some assistance, but the device is not working properly. There is a backup on the scene, but it is unknown if it is being used. In addition, there is a caregiver with training from a home health care agency on the scene. Just as you finish receiving this information you pull up to the scene and enter the residence with your equipment. You find the home health care worker working to get the backup machine in place. The patient seems anxious, and you observe a little cyanosis around the lips and fingernails.

2. What should you do to care for this patient?

Because of the calm and effective manner in which you and your partner handle this situation, the patient is being well ventilated and seems much calmer than when you first arrived. You realized that it wasn’t time to determine what was wrong with the ventilator. Your first priority was
ventilating the patient with high-concentration oxygen. You are informed by the family member on the scene, who was the same one who provided the dispatcher with the initial information, that the patient’s doctor is on the phone and a decision has been made not to transport the patient and that a new ventilator is being brought to the residence by the home health agency. The home health aide is now sure that the backup system is working properly and the patient is hooked up to the device. You check to make sure there is still chest rise and the patient’s normal color is at baseline. You obtain another full set of vital signs and make sure they are normal for this patient by asking the home health aide. As you leave, you talk to the patient and tell the family member and home health aide to call back if any further assistance is needed.
CHAPTER 37 REVIEW

Write the word or words that best complete each sentence in the space provided.

1. Two individuals on the scene of a call who can assist the EMT in order to provide care or assist with a special needs patient are the _______________ and the _______________.

2. A disease that occurs after birth is called _______________.

3. A disease that is present at birth is called _______________.

4. A mnemonic to use when dealing with autism patients is ABCs, which stands for _______________ _______________ _______________ _______________.

5. A _______________ is a surgical opening in the neck into the trachea, and when this opening is permanent it is called a _______________.

6. When assessing a tracheostomy tube, it needs to be checked for a _______________, and, if necessary, _______________ it.

7. A ventilator is a device that breathes for the patient and is programmed to take over the functions of _______________, _______________, _______________, and _______________ of breathing.

8. In case of a mechanical failure of a home ventilator, a _______________-______________-______________ device can take over the function of the ventilator.

9. A pacemaker is designed to prevent the heart rate from becoming too _______________.

10. An automatic implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD) is designed to detect the following two life-threatening cardiac rhythms: _______________ _______________ and _______________ _______________.

11. A battery-powered mechanical pump implanted in the body to assist a failing left ventricle
in pumping blood to the body is called a(n) ______________ ______________
____________ ______________.

12. A ______________ ______________ is a feeding device surgically implanted in the ab-
domen that extends into the stomach to provide nutrients.

13. ______________ ______________ is an external pouch that collects fecal matter di-
verted from the colon or ilium through a surgical opening in the abdominal wall.

14. ______________ is performed by attaching the patient to an external machine in order to
filter blood to remove toxic or unwanted wastes and fluids.

15. A potential complication of a dialysis shunt is ______________ from a rupture.
PATIENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TRUE OR FALSE

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

_____ 1. An EMT is not trained to calm Autism patients and should not be expected to do so.

_____ 2. It is advisable to seek input from the patient or a person with the patient who has been trained on the device or the conditions that a special needs patient has.

_____ 3. Talking and explaining any action such as care and preparation for transport may help to alleviate the stress a special needs patient may be feeling.

_____ 4. If the treatment or skill required for a special needs patient is not something an EMT is trained in or allowed to do by protocol, confer with medical direction.

_____ 5. A disease or condition that occurs afterbirth and may be the result of exposure to a virus or bacteria is called a congenital disease.

_____ 6. A continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) device provides constant pressure to prevent airway passages from collapsing, and is often prescribed to a patient who suffers sleep apnea.

_____ 7. The EMT should always assume that a patient with a tracheostomy can speak.

_____ 8. A ventilator is a device that breathes for a patient.

_____ 9. A pacemaker is designed to prevent the heart rate from becoming too fast.

_____ 10. An automatic implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD) is dangerous if it shocks when the patient is wet.
11. The patient, providers, and caregivers will not be shocked or harmed if the automatic implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD) shocks while they are touching the patient.

12. During transport, the bag for a urinary catheter should be kept higher than the level of the patient.

13. Hemodialysis is performed by attaching a patient to an external machine called a dialyzer.

14. All patients with hearing loss can read lips.

15. If available, a TDD/TTY phone may be used to assist when communicating with a patient with either a hearing or speech impairment.
**HANDOUT 37-6: Reinforcing Content Mastery**  Student’s Name

**MATCHING**

*Write the letter of the medical device in the space provided next to the situation it is appropriate for.*

A. Congenital disease

B. Acquired disease

C. Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)

D. Tracheostomy

E. Stoma

F. Pacemaker

G. Automatic implanted cardiac defibrillator (AICD)

H. Left ventricular assist device (LVAD)

I. Feeding tube

J. Urinary catheter

K. Ostomy bag

L. Hemodialysis

M. Peritoneal dialysis

N. Central IV catheter

O. Implanted port

_____ 1. A device that is surgically inserted for long-term delivery of medications or fluid into the circulation

_____ 2. A disease that is present at birth

_____ 3. A battery-powered mechanical pump implanted in the body to assist a failing left
ventricle in pumping blood to the body

4. An external receptacle that collects fecal matter diverted from the colon or ilium through a surgical opening in the abdominal wall

5. Surgical opening in the neck

6. A central IV catheter that can be felt under the skin and has no external tubing

7. Procedure performed with a solution containing minerals and glucose that is run into the abdominal cavity through a surgically implanted tube

8. A tube inserted into the bladder through the urethra to drain the bladder

9. This procedure is performed by attaching a patient to an external machine called a dialyzer

10. A device that uses electrical impulses to regulate rhythms of the heart

11. A disease that occurs after birth

12. A surgically created opening into the body, as with a tracheostomy, which is permanent

13. A device that exerts constant pressure through a tube and mask worn by a patient to keep airway passages from collapsing at the end of a breath

14. A tube used to provide delivery of nutrients, usually in two forms—NG tube and G-tube

15. A device implanted under the skin that can detect a life-threatening cardiac dysrhythmia and responds by delivering a high-energy shock to correct the rhythm