



(University of Choice)

**MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY OF  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
(MMUST)  
UNIVERSITY SUPPLEMENTARY/SPECIAL EXAMS**

**SCHOOL OF NURSING MIDWIFERY AND PARAMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PARAMEDIC  
science**

**COURSE CODE: NPP 325**

**COURSE TITLE: GERIATRIC EMERGENCIES**

**DATE: 14/4/2023**

**time: 8AM – 11AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

All questions in the three sections (A, B and C) are compulsory

**DURATION: 3 Hours**

MMUST observes ZERO tolerance to examination cheating

**SECTION A: MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS (MCQs); 20 MARKS**

*Choose the most appropriate answer*

1. Geriatric patients present as a special problem for caregivers because:
  - A. the classic presentation of disease is often altered
  - B. geriatric patients tend not to understand their underlying conditions
  - C. their medications are rather difficult to learn
  - D. the typical diseases of the geriatric population are uncommon
  
2. The following statement is true concerning aging
  - A. The diastolic blood pressure tends to rise with age.
  - B. Many elderly patients have a high threshold for pain.
  - C. Some elderly people have a low threshold for pain.
  - D. The systolic blood pressure tends to increase with age.
  
3. Geriatric refers to patients who:
  - A: have senile dementia.
  - B: are morbidly obese.
  - C: are older than 65 years old of age.
  - D: reside in convalescent homes.
  
4. The leading causes of death in the geriatric patient include:
  - A: vehicle crashes and burns.
  - B: heart disease and stroke.
  - C: poisoning and substance abuse.
  - D: Myalgia
  
5. Anatomic changes that occur as a person ages predisposes geriatric patients to:
  - A. airway problems
  - B. fungal infections
  - C. communicable diseases
  - D. mental status changes
  
6. The symptoms of difficulty breathing, toothache or arm cramps, and syncope in the older patient often indicate:
  - A: cardiovascular disease.
  - B: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
  - C: cerebrovascular accident
  - D: chronic bowel obstruction.
  
7. You are responding to the dementia unit at a nursing home for respiratory distress. When you arrive, you notice that the patient is experiencing mild dyspnea and has an altered

mental status. What can you do to help determine if the patient's altered mental status is appropriate for her underlying dementia?

A. as long as the patient is alert and able to answer most questions there is no need to determine if this is normal behavior

B. ask the patient's roommate if this is normal behavior,

C. find a staff member who can explain the patient's underlying mental status to you

D. because the patient already has dementia, there is no need to investigate this further

8. In contrast to younger patients, older patients are more prone to a decrease in blood pressure (BP) upon standing because:

A. their red blood cells are destroyed at a faster than normal rate

B. the aging process results in an overall increase in blood volume

C. the body is less able to adapt the BP to rapid postural changes

D. any change in position causes blood to be shunted to the brain

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10. When palpating the pulse of an elderly patient, you notice that there is an irregular pulsation without any kind of pattern or cycle to it. This is called:

A. Pulsus alternans.

B. Heart failure.

C. An irregularly irregular pulse.

D. Pulsus paradoxus.

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12. Poor maintenance of home, poor personal care, and dietary neglect are all possible indicators of elder abuse.

A. physical

B. financial

C. emotional

D. psychological

13. To minimize distractions and confusion when assessing an older patient, you should:

A. dismiss the family members from the room or area.

B. have only one EMT speak to the patient at a time.

C. elevate your voice and speak directly to the patient.

D. perform a physical exam and then talk to the patient.

14. When explaining the need for a particular procedure to an elderly patient, you should:

A. use plain language and simple terms.

B. use the appropriate medical terminology.

C. be complex so the patient fully understands.

D. realize that he or she will not understand you.

15. When caring for a geriatric patient with a traumatic injury, it is important to consider that:

A. geriatric patients usually present with little to no pain.

B. decreased bone density often results in incomplete fractures.

C. the injury may have been preceded by a medical condition.

D. geriatric patients typically present with classic signs of shock.

16. One of following statements regarding the elderly patient's nervous system is correct?

A. Short-term memory impairment is not simply the result of aging.

B. Parkinson's disease affects the cells in the sensory area of the brain.

C. Reduction in brain size increases the risk of significant head trauma.

D. Alzheimer disease is the most common form of acute delirium.

17. The geriatric patients risk for atherosclerosis resulting in:
- A. heart attack and stroke.
  - B. slowed conduction through the peripheral nerves.
  - C. loss of elastin in the skin and decreased kidney function.
  - D. decreased elasticity in the lungs and the formation of cataract
18. The following conditions would MOST likely make spinal immobilization of an elderly patient especially challenging
- A. Arthritis
  - B. Osteoporosis
  - C. Myalgia
  - D. Kyphosis
19. The heart hypertrophies with age, most likely in response to:
- A. a progressive increase in preload and chronic myocardial stretching
  - B. left-sided heart failure that results in chronic pulmonary hypertension
  - C. a chronically increased after load caused by arteriosclerotic blood vessels
  - D. a significant decline in cardiac output due to a reduction stroke volume.
20. The first action that you must perform for an elderly patient lying on the floor in emergency department.
- A. Instruct a nursing assistant to get the emergency cart.
  - B. Initiate cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
  - C. Perform the chin lift or jaw thrust maneuver.
  - D. Establish unresponsiveness.

**SECTION B: SHORT ANSWER QUESTION ( 8marks Each)**

1. Outline the emergency care of the frail older person in the emergency
2. Explain the the emergency of Gastrointestinal bleeding in the older person
3. Explain the emergency care of Hypokalaemia in the older person
4. Explain the emergency care of Acute kidney injury in the older person
5. Outline the emergency care of Tachyarrhythmias in the elderly

**SECTION C: LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (20 marks each)**

1. Describe the emergency management of Pulmonary embolism in the elderly
2. Describe the emergency management of Acute myocardial infarction in the elderly

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