

Illinois Trauma Nurse Specialist (TNS) Examination

Practice Questions

The answer key appears after these questions.

1. An adult presents to a Level II Trauma Center with a subdural hematoma and acetabular fracture. The trauma surgeon declares these to be isolated injuries, consults orthopedics and neurosurgery for immediate operative intervention and signs off the case. Orthopedics arrives 55 minutes after being contacted and determines that he will repair the acetabulum concurrently with the neurosurgical case. Anesthesia is tied up in surgery and asks that they be given an extra 60 minutes to locate a second anesthesiologist. The neurosurgeon arrives in the OR at 90 minutes. Both the craniotomy and acetabular repair are started 2½ hours later.

According to the IDPH EMS Act, which provider met the Level II requirements?

- A. Neurosurgeon
B. Trauma surgeon
C. Anesthesiologist
D. Orthopedic surgeon
2. What does a CVP of 1 mmHg reflect in an adult with multiple trauma?
- A. Pulmonary edema with need for diuresis
B. ARDS requiring non-invasive pressure ventilation
C. Hypovolemia and need for fluid resuscitation
D. Myocardial ischemia from low aortic root pressures
3. Which is an isotonic IV solution?
- A. LR
B. D₅₀W
C. Mannitol
D. 3% NaCl
4. A trauma patient presents with traumatic brain injury. Which blood gas findings are associated with cerebral vasodilation?
- A. pO₂ 45 mmHg
B. pO₂ 90 mmHg
C. pCO₂ 30 mmHg
D. pCO₂ 40 mmHg

5. An elderly trauma patient with Hx of Afib is being transferred for orthopedic management of her pelvic and femur fractures after an MVC. She presents with hypoxia, shortness of breath, air hunger and pain. Which of these conditions increase anatomic dead space and likely caused the patient's presentation?
- A. Upper airway obstruction
 - B. Pulmonary embolism
 - C. Atelectasis
 - D. Epiglottitis
6. A 40 yo M patient presents w/ spO₂ 70% after a GSW to the face. Patient presented awake, with massive facial trauma, loud gurgling sounds from bloody drainage, labored ventilations, and no visible nasal or oral openings. Which of these definitive airway access methods is indicated for this patient?
- A. Repositioning of the mandible and oropharyngeal airway
 - B. In-line orotracheal intubation
 - C. Nasotracheal intubation
 - D. Cricothyrotomy
7. A 17 yo M presents to the ED after being struck in the abdomen with a baseball bat. FAST exam was positive for fluid in the splenorenal compartment. ABG results: pH 7.0, pCO₂ 42, pO₂ 80, HCO₃ 18. Base deficit -15 mEq/L. VS: BP 80/60, P 140, R 24. What is the DEFINITIVE intervention for this patient?
- A. IR or surgery to stop the hemorrhage
 - B. Administration of blood products
 - C. Drug assisted intubation and hyperventilation
 - D. Administration of a large volume of 0.9 NS IV fluid
8. Which of these is included in the primary survey?
- A. Percussing the abdomen
 - B. Obtaining a SAMPLE history
 - C. Maintaining cervical spine motion restriction
 - D. Assessing extra-ocular eye movements

9. Which of these is included in the secondary survey?
- A. Assessing level of consciousness
 - B. Palpating the abdomen
 - C. Establishing IV access
 - D. Opening the airway
10. An elderly patient presents to ED with mental status change after a fall. Which of these is a common injury associated with bleeding of bridging veins sustained from standing level fall in an older adult?
- A. Epidural hematoma
 - B. Cerebral contusion
 - C. Intracerebral bleed
 - D. Subdural hematoma
11. A 50 yo M s/p high speed MVC struck his chest and abdomen on the steering wheel. Which of these is associated with an anterior compression injury to the abdomen?
- A. Ruptured diaphragm
 - B. Colon perforation
 - C. Renal laceration
 - D. Aortic tear
12. An adult presents with a GCS of 5 and unilaterally dilated pupil following head trauma. VS: BP 90/58, P 136, R 12 and irregular. The patient is positioned supine with head elevated on two pillows. The airway is patent and O₂ was given at 6L/NC. An IV of LR was started and 2 L infused. A bolus of 250 mL of 7.5% NaCl with Dextran was given to improve BP and reduce cerebral edema. VS and LOC were assessed and recorded hourly using the GCS. Which of these complied with the Brain Trauma Foundation Guidelines?
- A. Positioning
 - B. Fluid resuscitation
 - C. Airway and ventilatory support
 - D. Continued monitoring and documentation

13. A 75 yo F presents after she fell from standing face down to the ground c/o facial pain and clear fluid draining from her nose. A CSF leak is associated to which facial fracture?
- A. Maxillary ridge
 - B. Orbital blowout
 - C. LeFort III
 - D. Zygoma
14. A patient with SCI presents with paraplegia, no sensation over the chest or abdomen, and weak flexion of the elbows. At what level is the disruption?
- A. Cervical
 - B. Thoracic
 - C. Lumbar
 - D. Sacral
15. A bariatric trauma patient with unstable pelvic fracture has been positioned on a backboard for the past 6 hours while in ED. Which complication is the patient at HIGHEST risk to develop?
- A. Skeletal dysreflexia
 - B. Aspiration pneumonia
 - C. Malignant hypertension
 - D. Skin breakdown on bony prominences
16. An elderly patient presents with penetrating abdominal trauma, hypotension and frank rectal bleeding. Which of these interventions is indicated?
- A. Serial FAST exams
 - B. Emergency colonoscopy
 - C. Exploratory laparotomy
 - D. Abdominal CT with contrast

17. Anterior urethral tears in males are most associated with which MOI?
- A. Self-instrumentation
 - B. Straddle injury
 - C. Stabbing
 - D. GSW
18. A 20 yo F presents after a crush injury to bilateral lower extremities c/o swelling, numbness and intense throbbing calf pain aggravated by extension of the great toe. Which intervention is most appropriate?
- A. Prepare for a fasciotomy.
 - B. Administer more pain medication.
 - C. Elevate the leg and apply cold packs.
 - D. Apply warm moist towels to enhance local tissue perfusion.
19. An adult with a flail chest develops dyspnea and desaturation. Initial blood gases show pH 7.47, pCO₂ 33, pO₂ 60, HCO₃ 22, SpO₂ 90%. Chest x-ray reveals generalized haziness over all lung fields. What should a TNS suspect?
- A. Septic shock
 - B. Pleural effusions
 - C. Bilateral pneumothoraces
 - D. Pulmonary contusion and ARDS
20. Which of these is an indication for an emergency caesarean section?
- A. Fetal demise at 12 weeks gestation
 - B. Confirmation of fetal heart tones post GSW to abdomen
 - C. Post-mortem within 20 minutes of maternal death
 - D. Uterine size prevents adequate treatment of an unstable mother

Answers for TNS Sample Questions

Questions	Answer
1	D
2	C
3	A
4	A
5	B
6	D
7	A
8	C
9	B
10	D
11	A
12	D
13	C
14	A
15	D
16	C
17	B
18	A
19	D
20	D

SAMPLE QUESTIONS ONLY