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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958.

Nurses' Final Examination—General Nurse Training

1st JUNE, 1977

SURGICAL NURSING

Time allowed: Three hours

**Important:—**

Read your questions very carefully.

Answer only what is asked as no marks will be given for irrelevant material.

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A man, sixty (60) years of age, is admitted to your ward to undergo abdomino-perineal excision of the rectum for carcinoma.
    - (a) Why would this particular operation be indicated? —[1 mark]
    - (b) How can the patient be helped to accept the need for a permanent colostomy? —[4 marks]
    - (c) Describe the specific pre-operative preparation of this patient's bowel. —[5 marks]
    - (d) Describe the nursing care of the perineal wound. —[5 marks]
    - (e) Describe how the nurse can help the patient care for his colostomy. —[2 marks]
    - (f) Briefly explain three complications which may affect the colostomy. —[3 marks]—[20 marks]
  
  2. Mrs Rowe, twenty-eight (28) years of age, is admitted to hospital suffering from ruptured ectopic pregnancy.
    - (a) Define ruptured ectopic pregnancy. —[2 marks]
    - (b) List five (5) symptoms and signs which may be present. —[5 marks]
    - (c) State the main objectives of the treatment of this condition. —[3 marks]—[10 marks]
  
  3. Describe two (2) specific nursing measures aimed at preventing each of the following post-operative complications.
    - (a) Deep vein thrombosis. —[2 marks]
    - (b) Atelectasis. —[2 marks]
    - (c) Nausea and vomiting. —[2 marks]
    - (d) Paralytic ileus after bowel surgery. —[2 marks]
    - (e) Burst abdomen after abdominal surgery. —[2 marks]—[10 marks]
  
  4. (a) What clinical features would lead you to suspect that a patient in your care is suffering from a perforated peptic ulcer? —[2 marks]
  - (b) The patient returns to your ward following oversewing of the perforation combined with vagotomy and pyloroplasty. Briefly explain the reasons underlying the procedure of vagotomy and pyloroplasty. —[2 marks]
  - (c) Outline the management of the gastrointestinal tract which is commonly ordered until normal peristalsis has been re-established. —[4 marks]
  - (d) Outline important points in the health education of the patient prior to his discharge from hospital following recovery. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]

5. You are caring for a patient who is having a blood transfusion. What is the importance, or the significance of the following?

- (a) Grouping and cross-matching of blood prior to transfusion. —[2 marks]
- (b) That the transfusion drip rate is regulated to run slowly in an anaemic patient. —[2 marks]
- (c) The occurrence of one or all of the following symptoms and signs:—
- (i) loin pain;
  - (ii) headache;
  - (iii) hypotension;
  - (iv) pyrexia;
  - (v) tachycardia. —[1 mark]
- [5 marks]

6. Mr Byrne, fifty-eight (58) years of age, is admitted to hospital with burns he sustained while fighting a bushfire. Both lower limbs are affected except for his feet which were protected by heavy boots. It is estimated that 25% of his body surface is involved.

- (a) On admission, what observations are made by the nursing staff? Explain the significance of these. —[10 marks]
- (b) (i) How would this man's morale be affected? —[2 marks]
- (ii) How can the nurse be of help? —[3 marks]
- [15 marks]

7. A middle-aged lady has been admitted for an incisional biopsy of a lump in her left breast.

- (a) What pre-operative investigations would be carried out? —[1 mark]
- (b) What area of skin should be prepared? —[2 marks]

Following biopsy a radical mastectomy is performed.

- (c) Describe the following aspects of the post-operative management of this patient.
- (i) position in which this patient should be nursed following recovery from anaesthetic; —[2 marks]
  - (ii) care of wound and drain tubes. —[10 marks]
- [15 marks]

8. Robert, twenty (20) years of age, has sustained a fractured shaft of the right femur in a skiing accident. Treatment involves skeletal traction.

Describe care of the patient's limb and traction apparatus. —[10 marks]

9. (a) State why each of the following nursing measures are important:—

- (i) Observing the "swing" of fluid in the glass rod of an under-water seal drainage apparatus, connected to an inter-costal catheter in a patient with a haemo-pneumothorax. —[1 mark]
- (ii) Care of the eyes of an unconscious patient. —[1 mark]
- (iii) Ensuring that the patient lies flat following a lumbar puncture. —[1 mark]

(b) What term is used to describe the following:—

- (i) Twisting of part of the intestine resulting in obstruction; —[1 mark]
- (ii) Multiple pouches in the wall of the colon. —[1 mark]

—[5 marks]