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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Nurses' Final Examination – General Nurse Training

30TH NOVEMBER, 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 widow, sixty (60) years of age, who lives with her daughter, is admitted to your ward for above-knee amputation of the right leg because of advanced peripheral vascular disease.
 - (a) Name two (2) other conditions that might necessitate amputation of a limb. —[2 marks]
 - (b) What psychological support should be given this patient and her relatives in the pre-operative period? —[4 marks]
 - (c) Describe in detail the post-operative care of this patient using the following headings:—
 - (i) The nursing care required in the immediate post-operative period. —[6 marks]
 - (ii) Care of the wound and preparation of stump for prosthesis fitting. —[4 marks]
 - (iii) Prevention of flexion deformity of the hip. —[4 marks]—[20 marks]
2. A patient has returned from theatre following cholecystectomy and choledochostomy. A corrugated drain, and a "T" tube are in situ.
 - (a) Where is the corrugated drain situated and what is its purpose? —[2 marks]
 - (b) Where is the "T" tube situated, and what is its purpose? —[2 marks]
 - (c)
 - (i) What is the nurse's responsibility regarding the corrugated drain? —[2 marks]
 - (ii) What observations are made of the "T" tube and drainage? —[2 marks]
 - (iii) Describe how the patency of the common bile duct may be tested before removal of the "T" tube. —[2 marks]—[10 marks]
3. Mr. Jones, seventy-five (75) years of age, is admitted with acute retention of urine, due to an enlarged prostate gland. A trans-urethral resection is to be performed in 2 days' time.
 - (a) What symptoms and signs might Mr. Jones have had prior to his admission with urinary retention? —[3 marks]
 - (b) What diagnostic tests are likely to be performed to test the kidney/bladder function prior to operation? —[2 marks]
 - (c) Following the operation, Mr. Jones is returned to the ward with a 3-way Foley catheter in place, connected to a continuous bladder washout apparatus and a urinary drainage bag.
 - (i) What measures are taken to minimise the risk of urinary tract infection? —[4 marks]
 - (ii) How is clot retention prevented? —[3 marks]
 - (iii) How is the occurrence of clot retention recognized? —[3 marks]—[15 marks]

4. John, twenty-two (22) years of age, has received a compound, comminuted fracture involving tibia and fibula.
- (a) On taking John's history, there was some doubt as to his immunization against tetanus.
- (i) Why would John's wound be considered tetanus prone? —[2 marks]
- (ii) State the immunizing agents and the appropriate dosages which John is likely to be ordered. —[2 marks]
- (iii) What types of immunity would be produced? —[2 marks]
- (b) Define the terms:—
- (i) sequestrum; —[2 marks]
- (ii) osteomyelitis. —[8 marks]
5. (a) What are the aims of bowel preparation before surgery on the colon? —[2 marks]
- (b) State three (3) general ways in which this bowel preparation is carried out. —[3 marks]
- (c) List the specific investigations which may be carried out before bowel surgery. —[2 marks]
- (d) In what circumstances might the following be performed?
- (i) A permanent colostomy.
- (ii) A temporary colostomy.
- (iii) An ileostomy. —[3 marks] —[10 marks]
6. A young adult is admitted to hospital with burns to the face, neck, chest and upper arm (30% of the body surface is involved).
- (a) Why may shock occur in this patient? —[2 marks]
- (b) Describe two (2) main aspects of the initial treatment which is aimed at preventing shock. —[2 marks]
- (c) The doctor orders the burns to be treated by the "open" method. Describe the management of the burnt surface for the first 48 hours. —[6 marks] —[10 marks]
7. (a) Briefly explain the condition of otosclerosis. —[2 marks]
- (b) What type of deafness is caused by this condition? —[1 mark]
- (c) Name the operation performed in the surgical treatment of otosclerosis. —[1 mark]
- (d) Name two (2) specific post-operative complications of the above operation. —[1 mark] —[5 marks]
8. A young man is to be admitted to hospital following an accident in which he sustains a suspected spinal injury.
- (a) While awaiting the arrival of the ambulance, what specific care should be taken of the patient at the scene of the accident? —[4 marks]
- (b) Explain the difference between quadriplegia and paraplegia. —[2 marks]
- (c) Two (2) problems associated with these conditions are urinary infection and pressure sores. Indicate the main aspects to be considered in prevention of the above two (2) complications. —[6 marks] —[12 marks]

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9. Give a reason why each of the following conditions may occur after a sub-total thyroidectomy:—

- (a) Huskiness of the voice. —[1 mark]
 - (b) Restlessness and dyspnoea. —[1 mark]
 - (c) Tingling in extremities possibly accompanied by numbness and spasm. —[1 mark]
 - (d) Rapid rise in temperature, pulse rate and sweating. —[1 mark]
- [4 marks]

10. 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]
- [6 marks]