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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

5TH DECEMBER, 1984

SURGICAL NURSING

SECTION B

Important:—

Read the questions very carefully.

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

ALL questions are compulsory.

1. A 60 year old patient presents at 2 a.m. at the Casualty Department of a large hospital with acute retention of urine.

(a) What emergency treatment is likely to be performed? —[2 marks]

(b) Trans-urethral resection of the prostate gland is to be performed the next day.

What is the main reason for commonly administering a spinal anaesthetic for this operation? —[1 mark]

(c) Following the operation the patient returns with an indwelling 3 way Foley catheter connected to a continuous bladder washout apparatus.

Orders provide for 1000 ml of Normal Saline to be run into the bladder over a period of 6 hours. At what rate should the fluid run, if an I.V. drip set is used providing 15 drops per ml? (Show calculation) —[1 mark]

(d) After 48 hours the bladder washout is discontinued and the catheter is removed.

List the early warning features of clot retention of urine. —[3 marks]

(e) A manual bladder washout is ordered.

(i) What is the maximum volume of fluid that should be introduced into the bladder before allowing the fluid to drain? —[1 mark]

(ii) What is the danger of aspirating the irrigating fluid from the bladder rather than letting it drain? —[1 mark]

(f) Infection is one of the most common complications after this operation. List medical and nursing measures to prevent infection. —[4 marks]

(g) What instructions should the patient receive prior to discharge from hospital regarding

(i) recurrent haematuria over the next 4-6 weeks —[1 mark]

(ii) fluid intake —[1 mark]

(iii) urgency of micturition and dysuria —[1 mark]

—[16 marks]

2. Mr John Brown, 60 years of age, suffering from osteoarthritis of the right hip joint, has been admitted for a total hip arthroplasty.

(a) Define the two terms osteoarthritis and total hip arthroplasty. —[2 marks]

(b) What are the main symptoms and signs of osteoarthritis? —[2 marks]

(c) Describe the specific post-operative management of this patient until the removal of sutures. —[9 marks]

—[13 marks]

3. Mrs Jones, 36 years of age, has been admitted for elective abdominal surgery.

- (a) State four (4) reasons why it is important for the preoperative patient to remain ambulant for as long as possible. —[2 marks]
- (b) What are the nurse's responsibilities in relation to this patient's pre and post operative education? —[4 marks]
- (c) As Mrs Jones is being prepared for her premedication, she becomes very upset and states that she no longer wishes to have the planned operation. Outline how this situation could be best managed. —[3 marks]

—[9 marks]

4. Mr Clarke, 45 years of age, has returned to your ward following a right (R) lower lobe lobectomy. In situ are two tubes connected to underwater seal drainage systems.

- (a) Discuss specific nursing management of the underwater seal drainage system. —[5 marks]
- (b) 24 hours after surgery Mr Clarke develops sputum retention. What should indicate to the nurse that he has sputum retention? —[2 marks]
- (c) What would be the outcome if measures were not adopted to alleviate his sputum retention? —[1 mark]
- (d) Why is good pain control essential in the management of this patient? —[2 marks]

—[10 marks]

5. A 65 year old patient is admitted with peripheral vascular disease.

He is to undergo the operation of femoropopliteal bypass.

- (a) Of what characteristic symptom would this patient have complained prior to admission? —[1 mark]
- (b) To detect the site and extent of the occlusion, what two (2) specific investigations (not observations) are performed? —[2 marks]
- (c) What are the nurse's responsibilities regarding post-operative observations?

State what is observed, why it is observed and what complications these observations may detect. —[7 marks]

—[10 marks]

6. Carrie Phillips aged 16 years is admitted to hospital for a tonsillectomy.

- (a) State four (4) reasons why a tonsillectomy may be indicated. —[2 marks]
- (b) Briefly outline the post-operative nursing care of the patient in the recovery room, including the observations that are made. —[5 marks]
- (c) Briefly discuss the instructions that would be given to Carrie prior to her discharge from hospital. —[5 marks]

—[12 marks]