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VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

5TH JUNE, 1985

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. Mr. Alexander, a 45 year old married man, has been a heavy cigarette smoker for thirty years.

(a) What specific symptoms will suggest that he is suffering from carcinoma of the lung? —[4 marks]

(b) What four (4) investigations will help confirm the diagnosis? —[2 marks]

Mr. Alexander had a lobectomy performed, and returned to the ward with two intercostal catheters.

(c) Where have these catheters been placed and why? —[2 marks]

(d) Describe how the intercostal catheters will be managed in terms of care, observation and when it is safe to remove them. —[8 marks]

(e) In what position is the patient usually nursed following lobectomy? State reason(s) for same. —[1 mark]

(f) Name two (2) specific post-operative complications and how they would be recognised. —[3 marks]

—[20 marks]

2. Mrs. Jones, who is anaemic following surgery, is to have a blood transfusion.

(a) Enumerate the precautions taken to ensure that the correct blood is given to the correct patient. —[4 marks]

(b) Why would this blood transfusion be given slowly to Mrs. Jones? —[1 mark]

(c) List the clinical features of an allergic reaction to blood transfusion. —[3 marks]

(d) At what temperature must blood be stored? —[1 mark]

(e) After completion of transfusion, why are the blood containers kept and for how long? —[1 mark]

—[10 marks]

3. Following abdominal surgery, a patient suffers a burst abdomen.

(a) List signs which indicate onset of this condition. —[2 marks]

(b) List four (4) pre-disposing causes of burst abdomen, using the following headings:—

(i) General causes —[2 marks]

(ii) Local causes —[2 marks]

(c) Discuss the nurse's action if a burst abdomen occurs. —[4 marks]

—[10 marks]

4. Surgical treatment of peptic ulceration may be vagotomy and pyloroplasty.
- What is meant by the term "vagotomy" and what is the aim of the operation? —[2 marks]
 - Why is the operation of pyloroplasty performed at the same time? —[1 mark]
 - What specific pre-operative preparation would be ordered for this patient? —[2 marks]
 - Briefly describe the nursing care of a patient recovering from vagotomy and pyloroplasty under the headings of:—
 - wound care —[2 marks]
 - nasogastric tube —[3 marks]
- [10 marks]
5. Jane, 15 years of age, is admitted to hospital with 15 per cent burns, resulting from a scald by hot liquid. She has partial thickness burns to her left trunk and full thickness burns to her left thigh.
- What would be the characteristic features of Jane's partial thickness left trunk burns? How does this area differ from the area on her left thigh? —[2 marks]
 - Describe the immediate measures taken to treat Jane's distress and prevent further shock occurring. —[3 marks]
 - The open method has been chosen for the treatment of Jane's burns. What measures would be taken to prevent infection of the burnt area? —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]
6. What specific advice should be given prior to discharge to patients who have undergone each of the following?
- abdominal hysterectomy —[2 marks]
 - split skin graft donor site —[2 marks]
 - modified mastectomy —[2 marks]
 - stapedectomy —[2 marks]
 - prostatectomy (T.U.R.P.) —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]