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REGISTRATION EXAMINATION—(GENERAL NURSES)

MEDICAL NURSING

4th DECEMBER, 1986

VICTORIAN NURSING COUNCIL

Nurses Act 1958

Registration Examination—(General Nurses)

4TH DECEMBER, 1986

MEDICAL 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 23 year old mother of two (2) young children has been admitted with acute lymphocytic leukaemia. Physical examination of the patient reveals numerous petechiae. Her temperature is 39.5°C., and her haemoglobin is 6.4 gm/100 mls.
- (a) Briefly explain the reason(s) for the infection, anaemia and bleeding tendencies. —[3 marks]
- (b) Discuss the nursing management of this patient in relation to the—
- (i) infection —[5 marks]
- (ii) anaemia —[3 marks]
- (iii) bleeding tendencies —[3 marks]
- (c) The patient and her husband are informed that cytotoxic drug therapy will be given in an attempt to induce a remission. What explanations should be given to the patient and her husband regarding—
- (i) the desired effect of the cytotoxic drug therapy —[1 mark]
- (ii) the reason for the side effects such as alopecia, ulceration of the gastro intestinal tract and formation of uric acid —[2 marks]
- (d) Briefly explain the reasons underlying the psychological support which must be given to this patient and her family. —[3 marks]
- [20 marks]
2. A 40 year old woman with a history of rheumatoid arthritis is admitted to hospital during an acute exacerbation of the disease. Areas most affected are her hands, elbows, shoulders, feet and knees.
- (a) Explain the structural changes which occur in the joint as a result of unarrested rheumatoid arthritis. —[3 marks]
- (b) Outline three (3) nursing actions required to achieve each of the following:
- (i) Prevention of deformity of joints. —[3 marks]
- (ii) Reduction of pain in affected joints. —[3 marks]
- (iii) Improvement in this woman's general well-being during hospitalization and subsequent discharge. —[3 marks]
- [12 marks]

3. (a) Name two (2) different types of cardiac disorder which predispose to the development of sub-acute bacterial endocarditis. —[2 marks]
- (b) What is the most common micro-organism that causes sub-acute bacterial endocarditis? —[1 marks]
- (c) What investigation is carried out to confirm the diagnosis? —[1 marks]
- (d) What is the drug of choice and its dosage in treating this condition? —[2 marks]
- (e) What methods are used to prevent the development of sub-acute bacterial endocarditis in people with predisposing conditions? —[2 marks]
- (f) State two (2) different types of complication of sub-acute bacterial endocarditis. —[2 marks]
- [10 marks]
4. Accidental poisoning of children occurs frequently.
- (a) As a health teacher, what advice could you give to parents to avoid this happening? —[6 marks]
- (b) State what emergency treatment would be given to a child who has swallowed kerosene and indicate why this is necessary. —[2 marks]
- (c) Why is it inadvisable to induce vomiting following the ingestion of caustic soda (sodium hydroxide)? —[1 mark]
- (d) Name one (1) serious side effect in a child who has ingested tricyclic anti-depressants? —[1 mark]
- [10 marks]
5. A 55 year old male patient has been admitted with chronic renal failure. Investigations reveal that his serum potassium, urea and creatinine levels are very high and serum sodium levels are decreased. Urine output for the previous two days has been 700 mls and 900 mls respectively.
- (a) Explain the dietary modifications necessary for this patient to receive optimal therapeutic value from his diet. —[5 marks]
- (b) The patient is commenced on oral medications of aluminium hydroxide, vitamin D and calcium.
Explain the rationale for these medications. —[3 marks]
- [8 marks]
6. An 18 year old male patient is admitted unconscious to hospital with a provisional diagnosis of diabetic keto acidosis.
- (a) Briefly list the equipment and medication the nurse should have ready to be able to care for this patient in the first twenty-four hours following admission. —[3 marks]
- (b) List four (4) reasons why this patient could have developed keto acidosis. —[2 marks]
- (c) Describe the education provided regarding diet/insulin administration before his discharge from hospital.
(Exclude details of injection technique). —[5 marks]
- [10 marks]