

Chapter 9 - Thoracic Injuries Test Questions

1. Which injuries are considered life-threatening requiring immediate intervention?
 - a. Tension pneumothorax and pericardial tamponade
 - b. Cardiac contusion and rib fractures
 - c. Clavicle fracture and pulmonary contusion
 - d. Pneumomediastinum and subcutaneous emphysema

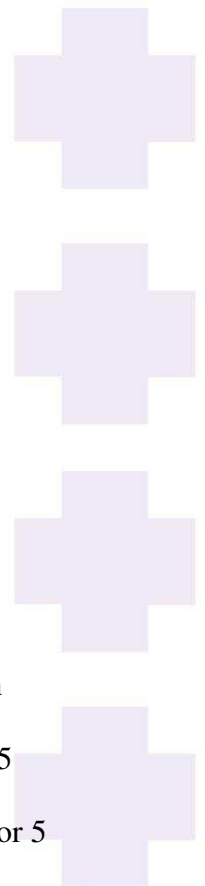
2. What is an early sign of tension pneumothorax?
 - a. Tracheal deviation
 - b. Respiratory distress
 - c. Increased cardiac output
 - d. Epistaxis

3. What is the immediate management of tension pneumothorax
 - a. Chest tube placement in 7th intercostal space
 - b. Place a three-sided dressing over chest tube site
 - c. Needle thoracentesis in 2nd intercostal space
 - d. ED thoracotomy

4. Flail chest is defined as:
 - a. Multiple rib fractures with subsequent subcutaneous emphysema
 - b. Chyle in the pleural space
 - c. Excess fluid in pericardium
 - d. Two or more ribs fractured at two points

5. Which patient would benefit most from an emergent thoracotomy?
 - a. 48 year old patient with gunshot wound to the back who lost vital signs upon arrival to the ED
 - b. 12 year old patient with traumatic asphyxia with CPR in progress for past 15 minutes upon arrival to the ED
 - c. 16 year old patient with traumatic amputation of arm with CPR in progress for 5 minutes
 - d. 19 year old patient with stab wound to chest who arrived with fixed and dilated pupils.

6. A nasogastric tube was inserted in a trauma patient. A follow-up chest radiograph shows abdominal contents in the chest cavity. The nurse should be suspicious of
 - a. Diaphragmatic rupture
 - b. Chylothorax
 - c. Pleural effusion
 - d. Tension pneumothorax



7. What is the most appropriate immediate nursing intervention for a patient who has pulled out their chest tube?
 - a. Restrain patient and place bed in trendelenberg position.
 - b. Cover site with a dressing and contact the physician
 - c. Apply oxygen per face mask and order chest x-ray
 - d. Monitor for air leaks and report subcutaneous emphysema

8. What is a significant nursing intervention to reduce morbidity in the patient with rib fractures?
 - a. Aggressive pulmonary toilet
 - b. Monitoring supplemental oxygen
 - c. Application of sequential stockings
 - d. Administering cough suppressant medication

9. What is the most common medical intervention required for patients with thoracic trauma?
 - a. Chest tube insertion
 - b. Thoracotomy
 - c. VATS (video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery)
 - d. Pericardiocentesis

10. Three days post motor vehicle crash, a patient was started on a regular diet. The nurse noticed the patient's chest tube drainage changed from serous-sanguineous to milky white. The physician orders for the fluid to be sent for triglyceride and chylomicron levels. The nurse suspects the patient may have:
 - a. Thoracic duct injury with chylothorax
 - b. Pulmonary contusion with empyema
 - c. Retained hemothorax with interstitial bleeding
 - d. Persistent air leak with pneumatocele