

AAPC A/P Certified Inpatient Coder (CIC) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Which of the following conditions does NOT involve hormonal imbalance?**
 - A. Thyrotoxicosis**
 - B. Adrenomegaly**
 - C. Meningioma**
 - D. Melasma**

- 2. Which condition is characterized by the feeling of movement or spinning when one is not?**
 - A. Dizziness**
 - B. Vertigo**
 - C. Lightheadedness**
 - D. Nausea**

- 3. What structure is responsible for ensuring the one-way flow of blood in the heart?**
 - A. Heart valves**
 - B. Coronary arteries**
 - C. Atria**
 - D. Ventricles**

- 4. Which organ acts as a storage reservoir for bile?**
 - A. Gallbladder**
 - B. Liver**
 - C. Pancreas**
 - D. Spleen**

- 5. The term "white" corresponds to which of the following prefixes?**
 - A. Leuk/o**
 - B. Hidr/o**
 - C. Lute/o**
 - D. Melan/o**

- 6. What distinguishes a whitehead from a blackhead?**
- A. Whitehead is a closed comedo; blackhead is an open comedo**
 - B. Whitehead is a small blister; blackhead is a cyst**
 - C. Whitehead is an elevated lesion; blackhead is flat**
 - D. Whitehead is a type of laceration; blackhead is a fissure**
- 7. What does metrorrhagia indicate?**
- A. Heavy bleeding during menstruation**
 - B. Irregular bleeding between periods**
 - C. Painful menstrual bleeding**
 - D. Absence of menstruation**
- 8. What condition is indicated by the prefix "necr/o"?**
- A. Hard**
 - B. Death**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Dry/scaly**
- 9. What is the function of the sebaceous gland?**
- A. Produces sweat**
 - B. Secretes sebum**
 - C. Filters toxins**
 - D. Regulates temperature**
- 10. What does balanitis indicate?**
- A. Infection of the testicles**
 - B. Inflammation of the glans penis**
 - C. Difficulty in urination**
 - D. Pain during ejaculation**

Answers

SAMPLE

- 1. C**
- 2. B**
- 3. A**
- 4. A**
- 5. A**
- 6. A**
- 7. B**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. B**

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which of the following conditions does NOT involve hormonal imbalance?

- A. Thyrotoxicosis**
- B. Adrenomegaly**
- C. Meningioma**
- D. Melasma**

Meningioma is a type of tumor that develops from the meninges, the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Unlike the other conditions listed, meningiomas are not primarily associated with hormonal imbalances. Instead, they are typically classified as central nervous system tumors and their progression and symptoms result from direct pressure on surrounding neural structures rather than hormonal alterations within the body. In contrast, conditions such as thyrotoxicosis involve excessive thyroid hormone production, resulting in various systemic effects due to hormonal dysregulation. Adrenomegaly refers to the enlargement of the adrenal glands, which can be linked to altered hormone production or regulation. Melasma, while primarily a skin condition characterized by hyperpigmentation, is often associated with hormonal changes, particularly in relation to pregnancy or contraceptive use. Understanding the underlying nature of these conditions is crucial for differentiating them based on whether they directly involve hormonal imbalances or not, further emphasizing why meningioma stands out in this context.

2. Which condition is characterized by the feeling of movement or spinning when one is not?

- A. Dizziness**
- B. Vertigo**
- C. Lightheadedness**
- D. Nausea**

The condition characterized by the sensation of movement or spinning, even when there is no actual movement occurring, is referred to as vertigo. Vertigo is often described as a false sense of motion, and it can occur due to various underlying issues, such as inner ear problems or neurological conditions. This distinct feeling of spinning is typically not present in the other options. Dizziness can be a general term that encompasses various sensations, including lightheadedness but does not specifically denote the spinning effect that defines vertigo. Lightheadedness usually refers to a sensation of feeling faint or unsteady, rather than the spinning sensation associated with vertigo. Nausea is a feeling of discomfort in the stomach that may lead to vomiting; while it can be related to vertigo, it is not a defining characteristic of the condition. Hence, the identification of vertigo as the correct answer highlights its specific association with the sensation of movement when no movement is taking place.

3. What structure is responsible for ensuring the one-way flow of blood in the heart?

A. Heart valves

B. Coronary arteries

C. Atria

D. Ventricles

The heart valves play a critical role in maintaining the one-way flow of blood through the heart. They are situated at various points within the heart and prevent the backflow of blood, ensuring that it moves efficiently from one chamber to another and ultimately out to the body or lungs. There are four main valves in the heart: the mitral valve and tricuspid valve, which are located between the atria and ventricles, and the aortic valve and pulmonary valve, which are located at the exits of the ventricles. When the heart contracts, these valves open to allow blood to flow in the correct direction; when the heart relaxes, they close tightly to stop any backward flow. This mechanism is essential for maintaining proper circulation and ensuring that oxygenated and deoxygenated blood remain separated. The other structures mentioned, such as coronary arteries, atria, and ventricles, contribute to the heart's overall function but do not specifically regulate the direction of blood flow in the way that the heart valves do.

4. Which organ acts as a storage reservoir for bile?

A. Gallbladder

B. Liver

C. Pancreas

D. Spleen

The gallbladder is the organ that functions as a storage reservoir for bile. Bile, produced by the liver, is an important digestive fluid that aids in the emulsification and digestion of fats. After the liver produces bile, it is secreted into the small intestine to assist with digestion. However, when digestion is not actively occurring, the bile is diverted to the gallbladder, where it is concentrated and stored until needed. When food, especially fatty food, enters the small intestine, the gallbladder contracts and releases bile into the duodenum, supporting the digestive process. The liver, while responsible for the production of bile, does not act as a storage reservoir; instead, it synthesizes and secretes bile directly into the bile ducts. The pancreas's primary role involves the production of digestive enzymes and hormones, while the spleen is chiefly involved in filtering blood and managing immune responses. Thus, the gallbladder is uniquely suited to serve as the storage site for bile until it is ready to be utilized in digestion.

5. The term "white" corresponds to which of the following prefixes?

- A. Leuk/o**
- B. Hidr/o**
- C. Lute/o**
- D. Melan/o**

The prefix that corresponds to the term "white" is leuk/o. This prefix derives from the Greek word "leukos," which means "white" or "bright." It is commonly used in medical terminology to denote conditions related to white blood cells, such as in "leukemia," which refers to a cancer of the blood that affects white blood cells. In contrast, the other prefixes have different meanings: hidr/o relates to sweat; lute/o refers to yellow, often used concerning the luteal phase in reproductive biology; and melan/o signifies black or dark, primarily associated with melanin and conditions involving pigmentation. Therefore, leuk/o is the correct choice for indicating the concept of "white."

6. What distinguishes a whitehead from a blackhead?

- A. Whitehead is a closed comedo; blackhead is an open comedo**
- B. Whitehead is a small blister; blackhead is a cyst**
- C. Whitehead is an elevated lesion; blackhead is flat**
- D. Whitehead is a type of laceration; blackhead is a fissure**

The correct distinction between a whitehead and a blackhead lies in their classification as comedones, which are types of acne lesions formed by clogged pores. A whitehead is indeed classified as a closed comedo, meaning that the clogged pore is sealed off from the air. This results in a small, elevated bump on the skin, which appears white or flesh-colored because the contents of the pore are not exposed to oxygen. Conversely, a blackhead is an open comedo, where the clogged pore remains open to the air. This exposure causes the material inside to oxidize and turn black, giving it its characteristic appearance. Understanding this difference is important in dermatology and skincare, as the treatment and management of these two types of acne lesions can differ significantly based on their nature. The other provided options do not accurately describe the characteristics or classifications of whiteheads and blackheads. For instance, describing whiteheads as blisters or cysts misrepresents their structure, while suggesting that one is flat and the other elevated does not hold true for these specific types of lesions. Likewise, categorizing them as types of lacerations and fissures completely misaligns with their true nature as comedonal acne lesions.

7. What does metrorrhagia indicate?

- A. Heavy bleeding during menstruation
- B. Irregular bleeding between periods**
- C. Painful menstrual bleeding
- D. Absence of menstruation

Metrorrhagia specifically refers to irregular bleeding that occurs between menstrual periods. This condition is characterized by episodes of bleeding that are not correlated with the regular menstrual cycle, and it can indicate a variety of underlying health issues, including hormonal imbalances or other gynecological disorders. Understanding the term is essential for diagnosing and managing potential health concerns related to menstrual and reproductive health. The other options delineate different aspects of menstruation and reproductive health. For instance, heavy bleeding during menstruation refers to menorrhagia, painful menstrual bleeding aligns with dysmenorrhea, and absence of menstruation is termed amenorrhea. Each of these conditions has its unique definition and clinical considerations. Metrorrhagia stands apart as it specifically addresses the occurrence of bleeding outside the standard menstrual cycle, making the correct identification and understanding crucial for effective patient care.

8. What condition is indicated by the prefix "nect/o"?

- A. Hard
- B. Death**
- C. Yellow
- D. Dry/scaly

The prefix "nect/o" is derived from the Greek word "nectos," which means "death". In medical terminology, prefixes often provide clues about the condition or concept they are associated with. Therefore, when you see the prefix "nect/o," it directly relates to conditions or terms tied to death or the concept of dying. The other options utilize different prefixes or roots. For example, "hard" might be associated with terms like "scler/o," which indicates hardness (as in scleroderma). "Yellow" pertains to "xanth/o," and "dry/scaly" might relate to "ichthy/o"—these roots and prefixes are distinct and do not connect with "nect/o." Understanding these roots and prefixes is crucial for medical coding, as they help in accurately interpreting terms related to diagnoses and treatments.

9. What is the function of the sebaceous gland?

- A. Produces sweat
- B. Secretes sebum**
- C. Filters toxins
- D. Regulates temperature

The correct answer highlights the primary role of the sebaceous gland, which is to secrete sebum. Sebum is an oily substance that helps to lubricate and waterproof the skin and hair. This secretion plays a crucial role in maintaining the barrier function of the skin, preventing dehydration, and protecting against certain pathogens. While sweat is produced by sweat glands and is important for thermoregulation, the sebaceous glands are specifically involved in the production of sebum. Filtering toxins is primarily a function of the liver and kidneys, not the sebaceous glands. Additionally, temperature regulation is mainly managed by sweat glands and blood circulation rather than sebaceous glands. Therefore, understanding the specific function of the sebaceous glands clarifies why their role in secreting sebum is foundational to skin health.

10. What does balanitis indicate?

- A. Infection of the testicles
- B. Inflammation of the glans penis**
- C. Difficulty in urination
- D. Pain during ejaculation

Balanitis is a medical term specifically denoting inflammation of the glans penis, which is the head or tip of the penis. This condition can arise due to various factors, including infections (such as from bacteria or fungi), irritants (like soaps or lotions), or underlying medical conditions such as diabetes. The inflammation can lead to symptoms such as redness, swelling, and pain in the affected area, which directly corresponds to its definition. Other conditions mentioned in the choices pertain to different anatomical sites or symptoms. For instance, the infection of the testicles relates to a completely different issue known as orchitis, while difficulty in urination and pain during ejaculation are symptoms that could relate to a variety of other urological conditions rather than balanitis itself. Thus, recognizing that balanitis specifically refers to inflammation of the glans penis clarifies why this choice is the most accurate.