

HOSA Medical Terminology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. What is typically involved in a diagnosis?**
 - A. Physical examination only**
 - B. Social history assessment**
 - C. Identification of a specific condition**
 - D. Psychological evaluation**
- 2. What is the medical term for the air sacs in the lungs?**
 - A. Bronchi**
 - B. Alveoli**
 - C. Aorta**
 - D. Veins**
- 3. What does the suffix '-plasty' refer to in medical terms?**
 - A. Surgical repair**
 - B. Process of imaging**
 - C. Medical condition**
 - D. System of organs**
- 4. What is the meaning of the root "leuk"?**
 - A. White**
 - B. Black**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Red**
- 5. In medical terminology, what does "XRT" indicate?**
 - A. Chemotherapy**
 - B. Diagnosis**
 - C. Radiation therapy**
 - D. Cell**
- 6. The suffix "plasm" refers to what in the context of medical terminology?**
 - A. Growth**
 - B. Cancer**
 - C. Fat**
 - D. Cell**

- 7. What is the main reason for conducting urinalysis?**
- A. To evaluate kidney stones**
 - B. To analyze urine for health conditions**
 - C. To administer dialysis**
 - D. To perform surgical procedures**
- 8. What is the meaning of the root word 'trache'?**
- A. Chest**
 - B. Throat**
 - C. Trachea**
 - D. Rhin**
- 9. What is indicated by the prefix "xanth"?**
- A. Red**
 - B. Yellow**
 - C. Black**
 - D. Green**
- 10. What does "capn" in medical terms most closely denote?**
- A. Oxygen levels**
 - B. Carbon dioxide levels**
 - C. Hydrogen levels**
 - D. Chlorine levels**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is typically involved in a diagnosis?

- A. Physical examination only
- B. Social history assessment
- C. Identification of a specific condition**
- D. Psychological evaluation

A diagnosis typically involves the identification of a specific condition based on various types of information gathered during a healthcare assessment. This process includes evaluating the patient's symptoms, medical history, and findings from physical examinations or tests. The goal of a diagnosis is to ascertain the exact nature of a patient's health issue, which then guides the treatment plan. In medical practice, accurately identifying a specific condition is crucial as it allows healthcare providers to recommend appropriate therapeutic interventions or further tests. This process may also integrate various assessments, but ultimately it centers on reaching a conclusion about what condition a patient is experiencing. While physical examinations, social history assessments, and psychological evaluations can provide valuable context and information during the diagnostic process, they alone do not constitute a complete diagnosis. The essence of a diagnosis lies in pinpointing the health condition affecting the patient, which is why this option is fundamental in understanding the medical diagnostic process.

2. What is the medical term for the air sacs in the lungs?

- A. Bronchi
- B. Alveoli**
- C. Aorta
- D. Veins

The correct medical term for the air sacs in the lungs is alveoli. These structures are crucial for the respiratory system as they are the sites where the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide occurs. Alveoli are tiny, balloon-like sacs that expand when air is inhaled and collapse when exhaled, facilitating this gas exchange process. This function is essential for maintaining proper oxygen levels in the blood and removing carbon dioxide from the body. Other choices are related to the respiratory and circulatory systems but serve different purposes. Bronchi are the larger air passages leading from the trachea to the lungs, not the sites of gas exchange. The aorta is the main artery that carries oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body, and veins are blood vessels that carry deoxygenated blood back to the heart. These terms represent different anatomical structures and functions in the body, which distinguishes them from alveoli.

3. What does the suffix '-plasty' refer to in medical terms?

- A. Surgical repair**
- B. Process of imaging**
- C. Medical condition**
- D. System of organs**

The suffix '-plasty' is commonly used in medical terminology to indicate surgical repair or reconstruction of a specific body part. This term originates from the Greek word "plastos," which means molded or formed. In practice, various medical procedures incorporate '-plasty' to specify the type of surgery being performed. For example, "rhinoplasty" refers to the surgical repair or change of the nose, while "angioplasty" involves the repair or reconstruction of blood vessels. The other options do not accurately capture the meaning of '-plasty,' as they refer to different medical concepts such as imaging processes, medical conditions, or systems of organs, none of which pertain specifically to surgical repair.

4. What is the meaning of the root "leuk"?

- A. White**
- B. Black**
- C. Yellow**
- D. Red**

The root "leuk" is derived from the Greek word "leukos," which translates to "white." This root is commonly used in medical terminology to refer to conditions, cells, or substances that involve white coloration or white blood cells. For example, "leukemia" refers to a type of cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow and is characterized by an increase in white blood cells. Therefore, understanding that "leuk" signifies "white" is essential for interpreting various medical terms related to blood and other white substances in the body. This root is significant in the fields of hematology and oncology, among others.

5. In medical terminology, what does "XRT" indicate?

- A. Chemotherapy**
- B. Diagnosis**
- C. Radiation therapy**
- D. Cell**

"XRT" stands for radiation therapy. This abbreviation is commonly used in the medical field to denote treatment that involves the use of high-energy radiation, typically to kill cancer cells or shrink tumors. Radiation therapy can be applied externally (from a machine outside the body) or internally (by placing radioactive material inside the body). Understanding the context in which "XRT" is used is important, as it relates specifically to oncological treatments where radiation is an integral part of cancer care. The other terms—chemotherapy, diagnosis, and cell—represent different aspects of medical practice but do not pertain to radiation therapy. Consequently, recognizing "XRT" as indicative of radiation therapy is essential for effective communication and comprehension within medical discussions and documentation.

6. The suffix "plasm" refers to what in the context of medical terminology?

A. Growth

B. Cancer

C. Fat

D. Cell

In medical terminology, the suffix "plasm" refers to the substance or material that forms cells and tissues. To clarify, it is often associated with the idea of "growth" or "formation" in biological contexts. For example, in terms like "cytoplasm," it indicates the material within a living cell excluding the nucleus, essential for cellular function and growth. While "plasm" might suggest other associations beyond just growth, such as the idea of cellular and tissue formation interconnected with their development, the primary interpretation aligns most closely with the concept of growth. This can include various types such as tissue growth (hyperplasia) and the production of different cells. The other choices relate to different medical concepts: "cancer" generally indicates abnormal growth of cells, "fat" relates to adipose tissue, and "cell" denotes the basic structural unit of living organisms. However, "plasm" specifically captures the essence of growth in its application within medical terminology.

7. What is the main reason for conducting urinalysis?

A. To evaluate kidney stones

B. To analyze urine for health conditions

C. To administer dialysis

D. To perform surgical procedures

The primary purpose of conducting urinalysis is to analyze urine for health conditions. Urinalysis is a common laboratory test that allows healthcare providers to assess various aspects of a person's health by examining the physical, chemical, and microscopic properties of urine. This analysis can reveal important information about kidney function, metabolic disorders, urinary tract infections, and systemic diseases such as diabetes. While evaluating kidney stones is a specific reason that might involve urinalysis, it is just one application of the test and not the main reason. Administering dialysis and performing surgical procedures are clinical interventions that are not related to the diagnostic capabilities of urinalysis. Thus, the overarching goal of urinalysis is to provide insights into the individual's health status by detecting potential health conditions through urine analysis.

8. What is the meaning of the root word 'trache'?

- A. Chest
- B. Throat
- C. Trachea**
- D. Rhin

The root word 'trache' specifically refers to the trachea, which is the tube that connects the throat (pharynx and larynx) to the lungs. This structure plays a crucial role in the respiratory system, allowing air to pass through during breathing. The trachea is vital for conducting air in and out of the lungs, making it foundational in discussions of respiratory anatomy and function. Understanding medical terminology often involves recognizing these root words, as they provide significant insight into various bodily systems and structures. The other choices pertain to different anatomical parts or systems: 'chest' refers to the thoracic region; 'throat' relates to the area at the front of the neck; and 'rhin' is a root pertaining to the nose. Knowing the specific context of 'trache' helps differentiate it from these other terms, reinforcing its importance in medical terminology related to respiration.

9. What is indicated by the prefix "xanth"?

- A. Red
- B. Yellow**
- C. Black
- D. Green

The prefix "xanth" derives from the Greek word "xanthos," meaning yellow. In medical terminology, it is commonly used to describe yellowish hues or conditions associated with the color yellow. For instance, it appears in words like "xanthoderma," which refers to yellow discoloration of the skin, and "xanthoma," which describes fatty deposits that can appear as yellowish lesions on the skin. This understanding is crucial for interpreting medical terminology related to color, particularly in diagnostic contexts.

10. What does "capn" in medical terms most closely denote?

- A. Oxygen levels
- B. Carbon dioxide levels**
- C. Hydrogen levels
- D. Chlorine levels

The prefix "capn" in medical terminology is derived from the Greek word "kapnos," which means smoke or vapor, but more notably in a medical context, it specifically relates to carbon dioxide. When used in terms such as "capnography," it pertains to measuring the concentration of carbon dioxide in exhaled air. This measurement is vital in clinical settings to assess a patient's respiratory function and monitor conditions such as hypoventilation or other respiratory disorders. Understanding that "capn" identifies carbon dioxide levels is crucial for interpreting various medical assessments and ensuring appropriate respiratory care.