

OT Sample Questions

1. An occupational therapist is working in an outpatient orthopedic clinic. During the patient's history the patient reports, "I tore 3 of my 4 Rotator cuff muscles in the past." Which of the following muscles cannot be considered as possibly being torn?

- a. Teres minor
- b. Teres major
- c. Supraspinatus
- d. Infraspinatus

2. An occupational therapist at an outpatient clinic is returning phone calls that have been made to the clinic. Which of the following calls should have the highest priority for medical intervention?

- a. A home health patient reports, "I am starting to have breakdown of my heels."
- b. A patient that received an upper extremity cast yesterday reports, "I can't feel my fingers in my right hand today."
- c. A young female reports, "I think I sprained my ankle about 2 weeks ago."
- d. A middle-aged patient reports, "My knee is still hurting from the TKR."

3. An occupational therapist is assessing a rupture of the ulnar collateral ligament of the thumb. Which of the following terms is another phrase for this condition?

- a. Mallet finger
- b. Gamekeeper's thumb.
- c. Heberden's nodes
- d. Early signs of CTS.

4. An occupational therapist is performing a screening on a patient that has been casted recently on the left upper extremity. Which of the following statements should the occupational therapist be most concerned about?

- a. The patient reports, "I didn't keep my extremity elevated like the doctor asked me to."
- b. The patient reports, "I have been having pain in my left forearm."
- c. The patient reports, "My left arm has really been itching."
- d. The patient reports, "The arthritis in my wrists is flaring up, when I put weight on my crutch."

5. A 93 year-old female with a history of Alzheimer's Disease gets admitted to an Alzheimer's unit. The patient has exhibited signs of increased confusion and limited stability with gait. Moreover, the patient is refusing to use a w/c. Which of the following is the most appropriate course of action for the occupational therapist?

- a. Recommend the patient remain in her room at all times.
- b. Recommend family members bring pictures to the patient's room.
- c. Recommend a speech therapy consult to the doctor.
- d. Recommend the patient attempt to walk pushing the w/c for safety.

6. An occupational therapist is covering a pediatric unit and is responsible for a 15 year-old male patient on the floor. The mother of the child states, "I think my son is sexually interested in girls." The most appropriate course of action of the occupational therapist is to respond by stating:

- a. "I will talk to the doctor about it."
- b. "Has this been going on for a while?"
- c. "How do you know this?"
- d. "Teenagers often exhibit signs of sexual interest in females."

7. An occupational therapist is caring for a patient who has recently been diagnosed with fibromyalgia and COPD. Which of the following tasks should the occupational therapist delegate to an aide?

- a. Transferring the patient during the third visit.
- b. Evaluating the patient
- c. Taking the patient's vital sign while setting up an exercise program
- d. Educating the patient on monitoring fatigue

8. An occupational therapist has been instructed to provide hand wound care for a patient that has active TB and HIV. The occupational therapist should where which of the following safety equipment?

- a. Sterile gloves, mask, and goggles
- b. Surgical cap, gloves, mask, and proper footwear
- c. Double gloves, gown, and mask
- d. Goggles, mask, gloves, and gown

9. Which of the following correctly identifies the TAM score?

- a. The total of a finger's flexion measurements minus the total extension measurements.
- b. The total of a finger's extension measurements minus the total flexion measurements.
- c. The total of a finger's flexion measurements minus the total extension measurements divided by 2.
- d. The total of a finger's extension measurements minus the total flexion measurements divided by 2.

10. A 64 year-old Alzheimer's patient has exhibited excessive cognitive decline resulting in harmful behaviors. The physician orders restraints to be placed on the patient. Which of the following is the appropriate procedure?

- a. Secure the restraints to the bed rails on all extremities.
- b. Notify the physician that restraints have been placed properly.
- c. Communicate with the patient and family the need for restraints.
- d. Position the head of the bed at a 45 degree angle.

11. A 22 year-old patient in a mental health lock-down unit under suicide watch appears happy about being discharged. Which of the following is probably happening?

- a. The patient is excited about being around family again.
- b. The patient's suicide plan has probably progressed.
- c. The patient's plans for the future have been clarified.
- d. The patient's mood is improving.

12. A patient that has delivered a 8.2 lb. baby boy 3 days ago via c-section, reports white patches on her breast that aren't going away. Which of the following medications may be necessary?

- a. Nystatin
- b. Atropine
- c. Amoxil
- d. Lortab

13. A 64 year-old male who has been diagnosed with COPD, and CHF. The patient exhibits an increase in total body weight of 10 lbs. over the last few days during inpatient therapy. The occupational therapist should:

- a. Contact the patient's physician immediately.
- b. Check the intake and output on the patient's flow sheet.
- c. Encourage the patient to ambulate to reduce lower extremity edema.
- d. Check the patient's vitals every 2 hours.

14. A patient that has TB can be taken off restrictions after which of the following parameters have been met?

- a. Negative culture results.
- b. After 30 days of isolation.
- c. Normal body temperature for 48 hours.
- d. Non-productive cough for 72 hours.

15. An occupational therapist teaching a patient with COPD pulmonary exercises should do which of the following?

- a. Teach purse-lip breathing techniques.
- b. Encourage repetitive heavy lifting exercises that will increase strength.
- c. Limit exercises based on respiratory acidosis.
- d. Take breaks every 10-20 minutes with exercises.

16. A patient asks an occupational therapist the following question. Exposure to TB can be identified best with which of the following procedures?

- a. Chest x-ray
- b. Mantoux test
- c. Breath sounds examination
- d. Sputum culture for gram-negative bacteria

17. A twenty-one year old man suffered a concussion during therapy and the MD ordered a MRI. The patient asks, "Will they allow me to sit up during the MRI?" The correct response by the occupational therapist should be.

- a. "I will have to talk to the doctor about letting you sit upright during the test."
- b. "You will be positioned in the reverse Trendelenburg position to maximize the view of the brain."
- c. "The radiologist will let you know."
- d. "You will have to lie down on your back during the test."

Answer Key and Explanations

1. **B:** Teres Minor, Infraspinatus, Supraspinatus, and Subscapularis make up the Rotator Cuff.
2. **B:** The patient experiencing neurovascular changes should have the highest priority. Pain following a TKR is normal, and breakdown over the heels is a gradual process. Moreover, a subacute ankle sprain is almost never a medical emergency.
3. **B:** Gamekeeper's thumb identifies this condition.
4. **B:** Pain may be indicating neurovascular complication.
5. **B:** Stimulation in the form of pictures may decrease signs of confusion.
6. **D:** Adolescents exhibiting signs of sexual development and interest are normal.
7. **A:** Aides should be competent on transfers.
8. **D:** All protective measures must be worn, it is not required to double glove.
9. **A:** Total flexion minus total extension = TAM score.
10. **C:** Both the family and the patient should have the need for restraints explained to them.
11. **B:** The suicide plan may have been decided.
12. **A:** Thrush may be occurring and the patient may need Nystatin.
13. **B:** Check the intake and output prior to making any decisions about patient care.
14. **A:** Negative culture results would indicate absence of infection.
15. **A:** Purse lip breathing will help decrease the volume of air expelled by increased bronchial airways.
16. **B:** The Mantoux is the most accurate test to determine the presence of TB.
17. **D:** The MRI will require supine positioning.
18. **A:** The frontal lobe is responsible for behavior and emotions.
19. **C:** The patient's safety should have the highest priority.
20. **A:** Seclusion is your best option in this scenario.
21. **A:** CBAN, cold, burn, ache, numbness
22. **B:** A ninhydrin test is used to check a patient's ability to sweat.
23. **D:** The patient is in a state of denial.
24. **B:** Fainting and hypotension can be caused by Tricyclics.
25. **B:** Palpitations and muscle weakness are found with excessive levels of Digitalis.