

ASSESSING THE CARDIOVASCULAR AND LYMPHATIC SYSTEMS

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Test Question 1

1. A patient who is hemorrhaging has decreased preload. What physiologic event will follow?
 1. increased afterload
 2. increased ejection fraction
 3. decreased CO
 4. decreased action potential

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Test Question 1 Response

1. A patient who is hemorrhaging has decreased preload. What physiologic event will follow?
 1. increased afterload
 2. increased ejection fraction
 3. **decreased CO**
 4. decreased action potential

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Test Question 1 Rationale

Hemorrhage would decrease the total volume of blood and venous return, which would decrease stroke volume and likewise cardiac output.

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Test Question 2

2. A nurse is assessing chest pain. What question will provide information about pain intensity?
1. “Did the pain move into your left arm?”
 2. “Was your pain relieved by resting or worse when you were busy?”
 3. “On a scale of 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain), what number was your pain?”
 4. “Was the pain a pressure, a burning, or a tightness?”

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Test Question 2 Response

2. A nurse is assessing chest pain. What question will provide information about pain intensity?
1. “Did the pain move into your left arm?”
 2. “Was your pain relieved by resting or worse when you were busy?”
 3. **“On a scale of 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst pain), what number was your pain?”**
 4. “Was the pain a pressure, a burning, or a tightness?”

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Test Question 2 Rationale

Since pain is subjective, a numerical rating scale assesses what is the patient's perception of pain intensity.

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Test Question 3

3. A nurse is assessing the apical pulse. What anatomic location would be used?
1. left midclavicular, fifth intercostal space
 2. left substernal, sixth intercostal space
 3. right midaxillary, second intercostal space
 4. right nipple line, any intercostal space

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Test Question 3 Response

3. A nurse is assessing the apical pulse. What anatomic location would be used?
1. **left midclavicular, fifth intercostal space**
 2. left substernal, sixth intercostal space
 3. right midaxillary, second intercostal space
 4. right nipple line, any intercostal space

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Test Question 3 Rationale

This is the location of the apex of the heart and can be assessed at left midclavicular, fifth intercostal space on most patients.

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Test Question 4

4. A patient's pulse rate is 50. The nurse would document this as which of the following?
1. tachycardia
 2. bradycardia
 3. hypertension
 4. hypotension

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Test Question 4 Response

4. A patient's pulse rate is 50. The nurse would document this as which of the following?
1. tachycardia
 2. **bradycardia**
 3. hypertension
 4. hypotension

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Test Question 4 Rationale

Bradycardia is defined as a pulse rate < 60 beats per minute.

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Test Question 5

5. A patient has a very low RBC count. What subjective manifestation would be elicited during a health history?
1. sore throat
 2. chest pain
 3. fatigue
 4. nausea

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Test Question 5 Response

5. A patient has a very low RBC count. What subjective manifestation would be elicited during a health history?
1. sore throat
 2. chest pain
 3. **fatigue**
 4. nausea

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Test Question 5 Rationale

Fatigue would indicate that the body's tissues are not receiving adequate oxygenation. O₂ is carried by the hemoglobin molecule on the RBC; if RBC numbers are very low there are insufficient numbers to carry adequate oxygen to meet demands.

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Test Question 6

6. A patient has a low platelet count. What would the nurse likely find on physical assessment?
1. enlarged lymph nodes
 2. excessive bruising
 3. varicose veins
 4. changes in pulse pressure

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Test Question 6 Response

6. A patient has a low platelet count. What would the nurse likely find on physical assessment?
1. enlarged lymph nodes
 2. **excessive bruising**
 3. varicose veins
 4. changes in pulse pressure

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Test Question 6 Rationale

Platelet plug formation is the first step in clotting. If the count is low, fewer platelets are available for clotting; therefore, with issue injury, platelets are not available and bruising occurs.

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Test Question 7

7. An older adult is severely dehydrated and, as a result, has increased blood viscosity. How will this affect the peripheral vascular resistance (PVR)?
1. increased PVR
 2. decreased PVR
 3. no change
 4. depends on gender

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Test Question 7 Response

7. An older adult is severely dehydrated and, as a result, has increased blood viscosity. How will this affect the peripheral vascular resistance (PVR)?
1. **increased PVR**
 2. decreased PVR
 3. no change
 4. depends on gender

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Test Question 7 Rationale

The thickness of the blood will affect the ability of the blood to flow through the vessels, thus increasing the peripheral vascular resistance (PVR).

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Test Question 8

8. What method would be most appropriate to assess the carotid arteries?
1. Inspect for absence of movement.
 2. Auscultate with the bell of the stethoscope.
 3. Palpate with firm pressure.
 4. Percuss lightly over each artery.

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Test Question 8 Response

8. What method would be most appropriate to assess the carotid arteries?
1. Inspect for absence of carotid bruit.
 2. **Auscultate with the bell of the stethoscope.**
 3. Palpate with firm pressure.
 4. Percuss lightly over each artery.

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Test Question 8 Rationale

Auscultating with the bell of the stethoscope will identify soft sounds such as the carotid arteries and identify any bruits.

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Test Question 9

9. When auscultating the abdominal aorta, the nurse hears a murmuring or blowing sound. This sound should be documented as which of the following?
1. hypokinetic pulse
 2. bigeminal pulse
 3. bruit
 4. dysrhythmia

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Test Question 9 Response

9. When auscultating the abdominal aorta, the nurse hears a murmuring or blowing sound. This sound should be documented as which of the following?
1. hypokinetic pulse
 2. bigeminal pulse
 3. **bruit**
 4. dysrhythmia

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Test Question 9 Rationale

A murmuring or blowing sound is the definition of a bruit.

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Test Question 10

10. The nurse is assessing a man who has severe leg pain. The leg is cool and cyanotic, and the femoral pulse can not be palpated. What would be the priority intervention based on these assessments?
1. Document the findings.
 2. Ask the family about this problem.
 3. Teach the man relaxation techniques.
 4. Notify the physician immediately.

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Test Question 10 Response

10. The nurse is assessing a man who has severe leg pain. The leg is cool and cyanotic, and the femoral pulse can not be palpated. What would be the priority intervention based on these assessments?

1. Document the findings.
2. Ask the family about this problem.
3. Teach the man relaxation techniques.
4. **Notify the physician immediately.**

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Test Question 10 Rationale

Notify the physician immediately; these manifestations indicate a severe decrease in perfusion to the leg, and cells are dying from lack of blood flow.