



The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Fellowship in Pain Medicine

Written Examination

Paper One (Compulsory Questions)

2nd April 2015 (Thursday)

09:00 – 10:30

Instructions:

- I. This Question Paper carries a total of six short answer questions.
- II. Please answer **all** questions and they carry equal marks.
- III. Please write your answer for each question in the appropriate "Pre-labelled" Answer Book.
- IV. Record your candidate number and question number on each answer book.

Compulsory questions (answer all questions):

1. Explain what is meant by the term *central sensitization* in the patient with persistent pain. Describe the neurobiological basis to this phenomenon and how this relates to its clinical manifestations.
2. Give a brief account of the risk factors and management of post-dural puncture headache.
3. What are the risk factors of developing persistent post-surgical pain? What are the measures available to identify high risk patients?
4. The role of catastrophizing in mediating responses to pain is well recognised. Discuss what is meant by the term *catastrophizing* in relation to pain and how this may be assessed. How may this impact on a patient presenting with low back pain?
5. A 45-year-old taxi driver involved in a minor car accident 2 months ago is referred to you by his General Practitioner. Initial examination after the accident including plain x-rays of lumbar spine had been normal. However since the accident he has complained of persistent low back pain. Outline your clinical assessment of this patient, indicating features that may support or exclude important diagnoses.
6. Your hospital is planning to enhance the provision of medical care to the elderly in the face of growing elderly population. You have been invited to advise the hospital on how to provide an effective pain management service for the elderly patients. Write a report on your recommendations to be submitted.

End