



The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Diploma in Pain Management Examination

Paper TWO

Friday, 21 September 2001, 11:00 h. – 12:00 h.

Instructions:

1. There are three clinical scenarios; each scenario has three related short questions.
2. Please **answer** questions from **two scenario only**.
3. There should be a total of six short questions answered and they carry equal marks.
4. Please write your answer for each scenario in appropriately labelled answer books.
5. Record your candidate number and question number on each answer book.

Scenario 1:

A 50-year-old obese woman was scheduled for a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. Due to technical difficulties the operation was converted to an open procedure

- Q1 Discuss the relative merits of thoracic epidural analgesia, and PCA morphine in this patient?
- Q2 Despite morphine PCA, the following morning when reviewed by you she still complains of significant pain. List the possible causes of inadequate analgesia.
- Q3 3 months later, the hospital received a letter from her solicitor requesting an explanation for the pain and suffering during the post-operative period. Hospital management asked you to provide an explanation regarding the physical and psychological distress that may have occurred. What would be the main points in your answer?

Scenario 2:

A 25-year-old intravenous drug addict accidentally injected heroin into his brachial artery. He presents with incipient ischaemia of his fingers.

- Q1 Briefly discuss techniques that you could use to improve blood flow and provide analgesia.
- Q2 A week later, despite treatment, the patient develops gangrene of 3 fingers. The surgeon decides to amputate the fingers. Discuss the role of pre-emptive analgesia in this patient.
- Q3 1 month later, the patient developed phantom pain. Outline your management.

Scenario 3:

A 45-year-old lady had radical mastectomy for left breast cancer. Three years later she develops severe left sided chest pain.

- Q1 List the possible causes of the pain and outline how you would confirm the diagnosis.
- Q2 A rib secondary is discovered. Other than oral analgesics, what other modalities could be used to manage pain in this patient?
- Q3 If an intercostal block with phenol is considered, how would you obtain informed consent?

End