



The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists

Diploma in Pain Management Examination

Paper Two (Scenario Questions)

22 October 2010 (Friday)

11:00 – 12:00

Instructions:

- I. There are TWO clinical scenarios; each scenario has three related short questions.
- II. Please answer ALL questions
- III. Please write your answer for each scenario in appropriately labelled answer books.
- IV. Record your candidate number and question number on each answer book.

Scenario A

A 35-year-old lady presents with persisting generalised neck pain and headache after a motor vehicle accident 6 months ago where she was the driver and the car was “written off”. She feels that her pain is getting worse. Her numerical pain rating scale (NRS) is 10/10. She cannot work or socialize anymore and blamed the driver of the other car for “destroying” her life. She cannot sleep because of nightmares. All the physiotherapy and pills she has taken did not work. She comes to you now very desperate and hopes you can do an injection and get rid of her pain.

1. Outline your approach to assessment of this patient.
2. Discuss factors that will affect the outcome of her pain management.
3. How will you manage her pain?

Scenario B

An 80-year-old lady with history of dementia, hypertension and ischemic heart disease presents with severe right shoulder and arm pain over the last few days. Her carer notes that she is in constant distress. There was no history of injury.

4. List the possible differential diagnoses. Discuss factors that will affect your pain assessment in this patient.
5. On examination, you notice blisters over her painful area. Discuss your initial management of this patient.
6. Three months later, the patient is brought back to you complaining of persistent pain. Her family doctor has prescribed morphine syrup 5mg Q3H PRN as the sole analgesic. What are your concerns of using strong opioids for her?

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