



**The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists
Final Fellowship Examination in Pain Medicine**

Written Examination

Paper Two (Optional Questions)

28 May 2021 (Friday)

11:30 – 13:25 hrs

Instructions:

- I. This Question Paper carries a total of 9 short answer questions.
- II. Please answer **6** questions and they carry equal marks.
- III. Do not write your name and reveal your identity in any way in your answers.
- IV. This Examination lasts for **115** minutes.
- V. You shall start your work once you have unlocked your examination paper. No announcement will be made separately for the start of the examination. You shall observe the time regularly as no reminder of the examination time will be made during the course of examination.
- VI. Please indicate which 6 question numbers you have selected to answer by answering a supplementary Question no. 10.

Optional Questions (choose 6 out of 9 questions)

1. A 44-year-old man suffers from syringomyelia extending from C6 to T2. He complains of pain over both shoulders and arms, as well as weakness of all 4 limbs. The patient underwent shunt drainage of the syrinx to the abdominal cavity.
 - a. How would you manage his post-operative pain?
 - b. Patient still complains of severe pain on both upper limbs 5 days after the operation. What would be your approach to management his pain?
2. Discuss the role of IV lignocaine infusion for perioperative pain control, its efficacy, safety and recommended use.
3. A 62-year-old builder presents with a 5 months' history of pain in his anterior right thigh. The pain is described as a deep, aching sensation and was followed by development of progressive weakness in the quadriceps femoris resulting in a limp. The right knee gives way intermittently and he has started using a gait aid. There is loss of the right knee jerk with decreased sensation involving the anterior thigh noted on examination. He has experienced 4.5 kgs unplanned weight loss in this period. His history is positive for well controlled diabetes mellitus diagnosed 2 years ago for which he takes metformin. His only other medication is atorvastatin. He has no other medical history.
 - a. List the differential diagnosis of this man's problem. (40%)
 - b. Discuss the evidence-based treatment of this patient. (60%)
4. A 45-year-old gentleman complains of severe right-sided headache associated with right neck and shoulder pain. He had on and off pain for several years and the pain became severe in the recent 4-5 months. He could hardly move and had to struggle to attend your clinic.
 - a. What are your differential diagnoses?
 - b. What are the clinical features that suggest diagnosis of cervicogenic headache?
 - c. If you make a diagnosis of cervicogenic headache, how will you manage this patient?

5. **50-year-old lady with history of hypothyroidism presents with pain and numbness in right thumb and index fingers for 3 months. She was offered surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome by an orthopaedic consultant. She expressed worries whether she might be left with a life-long neurological problem. She would like to seek your second opinion. Please outline your evidence based approach to history, physical examination, investigation and management.**

6. **A 45-year-old man presents with chronic widespread pain after a broken ankle and fractured ribs contracted whilst he was escaping from a fire in his apartment building. Some of his neighbours were badly burnt and three died from asphyxiation. You refer him for assessment by your clinical psychologist. The psychologist writes back saying "... It is likely that this man has a complicating post-traumatic stress disorder complicating his pain." Discuss the clinical criteria for diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder.**

7. **What are factors affecting transfer of drugs into breast milk? Discuss safety of use of codeine, tramadol, oxycodone and morphine in breast feeding women.**

8. **Discuss the use of corticosteroids in patients with cancer pain, in particular its mechanisms, effectiveness, considerations and adverse effects.**

9. **Describe the treatment strategies with evidence for management of bone cancer pain including spinal cord compression.**

10. **Please state the 6 question numbers you have selected to answer in this Paper (2 minutes).**

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