



**The Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists**  
**Final Fellowship Examination in Pain Medicine**  
**Written Examination**  
**Paper One (Compulsory Questions)**  
**1 June 2022 (Wednesday)**  
**09:00 – 10:30 hrs**

**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.
- V. Use ink or ball-point pen.

**Compulsory Questions (answer all questions)**

1. Describe your understanding of nociplastic pain and discuss the pathophysiological mechanisms underpinning the nociplastic pain.
2. A 20-year-old man with Osteosarcoma of Tibia on stable dose of Buprenorphine patch (at 10 micrograms per hour) presents for elective below knee amputation in 2 weeks.
  - a) Briefly present the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of Buprenorphine patch as an analgesic. (50%)
  - b) Outline the perioperative analgesia plan. (50%)
3. Mr. Lai is a 55-year-old man, who was diagnosed with inoperable liver cancer. He is admitted for disturbing abdominal pain and distension. Mr. Lai is a chronic smoker and has chronic hepatitis C. He has been given tramadol 50mg q8h and syrup morphine 10mg q4h PRN orally for analgesia but pain control is unsatisfactory.
  - a) Outline possible mechanisms accounting for his pain condition. (40%)
  - b) Briefly describe your management on Mr. Lai. (60%)

4. A 50-year-old lady was the driver of a vehicle that was involved in a traffic accident 2 years ago. She complains of progressively worsening neck pain and headache since the accident. She comes to your Pain Clinic for management.
- a) Please list important points to note in the history and physical examination of the patient.  
There is no neurological abnormality on examination.
  - b) Would you recommend magnetic resonance imaging of the cervical spine? Whatever your decision is, how would you explain to the patient your rationale?
  - c) Please outline treatment options for this patient.

Each question carries equal marks.

5. Mrs. Tam is an 83-year-old retired nurse. She had vesicular rash over her right scalp over parietal-occipital region, ear and right side of her neck four weeks ago and now complains of severe pain over these areas. She was given oral paracetamol 1 gram q6h, ibuprofen slow release 100mg daily, tramadol 50mg q6h by her family physician but the pain control is still suboptimal and she could not sleep due to the relentless pain.
- a) How do you diagnose post-herpetic neuralgia? Explain underlying mechanisms of her pain. (40%)
  - b) How would you manage Mrs. Tam's pain condition? (60%)
6. The Urologist refers to you a 45-year-old woman who complains of persistent pelvic pain. She also suffers from urinary urgency, frequency, and a compulsion to constantly void. The intensity of symptoms varies from day to day, and seems to correlate with her ovulatory cycle.
- a) List the differential diagnoses.
  - b) Describe your approach to assessment of this patient. Discuss the most likely diagnosis.

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