EMERGENCY ROOM NURSE COMPETENCY TEST

NAME: ____________________________________________________ TITLE: ________________

SIGNATURE: ____________________________________________ DATE: ________________

Instruction: Please select the best answer.

1. During the initial assessment of this 70 year old male who is being re-admitted with hematemesis and bright-red rectal bleeding, the nurse should be particularly alert for:
   ○ 1. Facial flushing
   ○ 2. Petechiae
   ○ 3. Pruritus
   ○ 4. Hypertension

2. The nurse knows that a patient is on long term anticoagulant therapy must be carefully monitored for potential hemorrhage complications that most commonly affect the:
   ○ 1. GI Tract
   ○ 2. Genitourinary tract
   ○ 3. Respiratory tract
   ○ 4. Capillary vasculature

3. Which therapy would the nurse expect the physician to order for the patient?
   ○ 1. Peritoneal dialysis
   ○ 2. Administration of Vitamin K
   ○ 3. Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) chelaton
   ○ 4. Plasmapheresis.

4. Which therapy would be inappropriate for a patient with hemorrhagic complications from oral anticoagulants?
   ○ 1. Volume replacement
   ○ 2. Administration of whole blood
   ○ 3. Administration of fresh frozen plasma
   ○ 4. Administration of protamine sulfate
5. The nurse would normally instruct a patient receiving anticoagulant therapy to:
   - 1. Avoid excessive alcohol intake
   - 2. Avoid using an electric shaver
   - 3. Avoid using soft-bristled toothbrushes
   - 4. Trim corns and calluses weekly

6. Which condition would the nurse expect to note in a patient who has sustained a head injury and damage to the sixth cranial nerve?
   - 1. Absent gag reflex
   - 2. Fixed and dilated pupils
   - 3. Nystagmus
   - 4. Inward deviation of the eyes

7. Which drug is the treatment of choice to prevent seizures from traumatic head injury
   - 1. Diazepam
   - 2. Dexamethasone (Decadron)
   - 3. Phenytoin
   - 4. Phenobarbital

8. Which independent nursing intervention best relieves increased ICP
   - 1. Elevating the head of the bed 30 degrees
   - 2. Administering oxygen
   - 3. Administering diuretics
   - 4. Hyperventilating the patient

9. Which sign is typically the first indication of increased ICP?
   - 1. Elevated systolic blood pressure
   - 2. Elevated body temperature
   - 3. Altered respiratory pattern
   - 4. Altered level of consciousness

10. The most reliable technique for testing the motor strength of a patient's arm is to:
    - 1. Observe for spontaneous movement
    - 2. Test the patient's muscle reflexes
    - 3. Ask the patient to squeeze the nurse's hand
    - 4. Ask the patient to close his eyes and to raise his arms straight in front of him.
11. A patient admitted to the Ed with an injury to the left cerebral hemisphere may exhibit:
   - Left hemiparesis
   - Left homonymous hemianopia
   - Deviation of the eyes to the left
   - Left-sided hemiplegia

12. The nurse understands that pinpoint pupils usually are indicative of a lesion in the:
   - Pons
   - Optic nerve
   - Medulla
   - Midbrain

13. An unconscious patient with pinpoint pupils is most likely to exhibit what breathing pattern?
   - Apneustic breathing
   - Biot's respiration
   - Ataxic breathing
   - Cheyne-Stokes respirations

14. Which nursing action would be inappropriate for a patient who has just been diagnosed as having viral meningitis?
   - Institute seizure precautions
   - Institute isolation precautions
   - Monitor the patient's temperature frequently
   - Institute measures to control increased ICP

15. Which of the following findings is a common sign of meningococcal meningitis?
   - Petechiae
   - Hypothermia
   - Nystagmus
   - Hypertensive crisis

16. The clinical signs and symptoms of acute adrenal crisis are caused by:
   - Decreased aldosterone and cortisol levels
   - Decreased ADH and cortisol levels
   - Increased ADH and cortisol levels
   - Increased aldosterone and cortisol levels
17. Which incident is the most common cause of death from acute alcohol intoxication?
   ● 1. Respiratory depression or arrest
   ○ 2. Aspiration of vomitus
   ○ 3. GI bleeding
   ○ 4. Accidental injury

18. Which condition commonly mimics the signs and symptoms of alcohol intoxication?
   ● 1. Diabetic reactions
   ○ 2. Head injury
   ○ 3. Drug overdose
   ○ 4. All of the above

19. Which symptom of cocaine abuse would the nurse expect to detect during a patient assessment?
   ○ 1. Lethargy and obtundation
   ● 2. Constricted pupils
   ○ 3. Hypothermia and tiredness
   ○ 4. Euphoria and restlessness

20. Which treatment would the nurse expect the physician to order for a patient with a suspected cocaine overdose?
   ○ 1. Oxygen
   ○ 2. Naloxone
   ○ 3. Physostigmine
   ○ 4. Activated charcoal

SCORE: _______________________________________

PASSING SCORE: _________________________

EVALUATOR: _________________________