

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR FLUIDS & ELECTROLYTES

1. A patient is admitted to the hospital with pneumonia. The complete metabolic panel reveals a sodium level of 114 mEq/L. Which of the following is the most important nursing intervention?
 - A. Teach patient to consume only low-sodium liquids
 - B. Encourage patient to increase oral intake of water
 - C. Monitor intake and output every four hours
 - D. Perform frequent neurological checks
2. The nurse is caring for a patient with rheumatoid arthritis (RA) that has developed hypocalcemia. The nurse knows it is important to review the patient's home medications because hypocalcemia may be caused by long term use of which class of drugs?
 - A. Corticosteroids
 - B. Bronchodilators
 - C. Cephalosporins
 - D. Anticholinergics
3. The nurse is caring for a 63-year-old patient admitted with dehydration after running a half-marathon. After infusion of 1000 mL 0.9% NS, the patient begins to cough and asks for the head of the bed to be raised to ease breathing. The nurse's assessment includes jugular vein distention (JVD) and increased respiratory rate. How should the nurse interpret these findings?
 - A. Hypervolemia is developing
 - B. The fluid volume deficit is worsening
 - C. Hypotonic water intoxication is beginning
 - D. Ascites is causing respiratory compromise
4. The nurse is caring for a patient recovering from hypertensive crisis. The patient has diffuse, generalized edema throughout the body. What would be the cause of the abnormal fluid shift?
 - A. A decrease in hydrostatic pressure
 - B. An increase in hydrostatic pressure
 - C. A decrease in capillary permeability
 - D. An increase in capillary permeability
5. A patient's serum sodium level is 155 mEq/L. What should the nurse expect the serum osmolality to be?
 - A. 0 mOsm/kg
 - B. 280-300 mOsm/kg
 - C. Less than 280 mOsm/kg
 - D. Greater than 300 mOsm/kg
6. The nurse is monitoring a patient with hypercalcemia who is taking digoxin. Which of the following focused assessments is the highest priority?

- A. Frequent pulse checks
- B. Auscultation of bowel sounds
- C. Checking for Trousseau's sign
- D. Inspection of skin for signs of bleeding