

Immune Study Guide

Broad topics to be familiar with:

Examples of innate and acquired immunity, natural & artificial, active & passive

Examples of conditions that could decrease immune function, including causes of altered immune response

Different types of hypersensitivity reactions

General knowledge of autoimmunity, definition of, triggers, genetic predisposition, clustering

Immune compromise r/t disease process or medication regimen (diabetes, long-term corticosteroid use, etc)

RA:

General description, diagnostic tests, what happens within joints, common deformities associated, long-term prognosis

Teaching regarding ADLs

Managing symptoms

Most common medications – methotrexate, biologics, NSAIDs (teaching, adverse effects to watch)

SLE:

General description, diagnostic tests, organs affected, conditions associated with SLE/clinical manifestations (Reynaud's, photosensitivity, renal failure, butterfly rash, etc)

Teaching, managing symptoms

Medications – NSAIDs, hydroxychloroquine, methotrexate

HIV:

General description, diagnostic tests, diagnostic criteria for AIDS, populations most at risk of contracting HIV

Antiretroviral therapy – goals of treatment, importance of ability of patient to adhere to treatment regimen (don't need to remember specific drugs, there are many combinations, they change all the time)

Teaching regarding testing, risk reduction for transmitting to others

New diagnosis of HIV – prevention of infections, opportunistic and otherwise, anxiety and fear for patients receiving new diagnosis

Common opportunistic infections (healthy people with functioning immune systems don't get these)

For all disorders, picture a patient with the disorder. How would you teach the patient about their diagnosis? About their medications? What would you watch for if you were taking care of them in outpatient/inpatient setting? What's the big deal? What could go wrong?