

Seizures and Epilepsy Syndromes

1 . Epilepsy is

- A) caused by focal brain injury.
- ☒ B) a chronic neurologic disorder.
- C) considered a metabolic disorder.
- D) caused by fever from an infection.

2 . How many seizures must a patient have before a diagnosis of epilepsy is considered?

- A) At least one
- ☒ B) At least two
- C) At least five
- D) At least seven

3 . Epilepsy is found in approximately what percentage of the adult U.S. population?

- ☒ A) Less than 2%
- B) 10%
- C) 12%
- D) 20%

4 . The primary causes of epilepsy in infants are

- A) trauma and infections.
- B) brain tumors and other structural lesions.
- C) cerebrovascular accidents and metastatic tumors.
- ☒ D) birth injuries, high fevers, temporary metabolic abnormalities, brain disorders, and congenital defects.

5 . What are the three basic underlying causes of epileptic seizures?

- A) Simple, partial, and complex
- B) Tonic, atonic, and myoclonic
- C) Focal, generalized, and febrile
- ☒ D) Genetic, structural/metabolic, and unknown

6 . Use of drugs of abuse is a known risk factor for the development of seizures, especially when associated with

- A) infection.
- B) hypoglycemia.

C) tuberous sclerosis.

☒ D) overdose and withdrawal.

7 . An aura usually lasts for

☒ A) a few seconds.

B) several hours.

C) several days.

D) weeks or months.

8 . The phase of the actual seizure activity is called the

A) aura.

B) prodrome.

☒ C) ictal phase.

D) postictal phase.

9 . Atonic seizures are characterized by

A) prolonged unconsciousness.

B) quick muscular jerky movements.

C) vocalization at the onset of seizure activity.

☒ D) sudden collapse, with the legs unable to support the body.

10 . The majority of patients with epilepsy experience

☒ A) focal seizures.

B) atonic seizures.

C) absence seizures.

D) tonic-clonic seizures.

11 . Focal seizures occur in what percentage of patients with epilepsy?

A) 20% to 25%

B) 30% to 40%

C) 60% to 70%

☒ D) 75% to 80%

12 . Focal seizures may progress to involve the entire cerebral tissue. These may be referred to as

A) migraines.

- B) status epilepticus.
- C) unclassified seizures.
- ☒ D) seizures that evolve bilaterally.

13 . The primary mechanism to assess seizure intensity, duration, and frequency is often

- A) EEG.
- B) MRI.
- C) physical exam.
- ☒ D) the patient's and/or witnesses' reports.

14 . Psychogenic pseudoseizures are

- A) commonly associated with injuries.
- B) often associated with psychologic trauma.
- C) characterized by specific CNS abnormalities.
- ☒ D) very different in appearance to epileptic seizures.

15 . Which type of EEG has an increased likelihood of capturing a seizure event in patients with infrequent seizures?

- A) Routine
- B) Random
- C) Sleep-deprived
- ☒ D) 24-hour monitoring

16 . Lumbar puncture is a useful part of what aspect of diagnosis of epilepsy?

- A) Evaluating the medial temporal lobe
- B) Visualizing intracranial abnormalities
- C) Locating areas of seizure activity in the brain
- ☒ D) Determining if infectious etiologies are present

17 . All of the following are forms of childhood epilepsy, EXCEPT:

- ☒ A) Ketogenic
- B) Febrile seizures
- C) West syndrome
- D) Lennox-Gastaut syndrome

18 . One of the primary issues regarding epilepsy in elderly patients is

- A) increased metabolism of medications.

- B) hormonal fluctuations can affect seizure activity.
- C) decreased sensitivity to side effects such as fatigue.
- ☒ D) they are often prescribed multiple concomitant medications, predisposing them to drug interactions and adverse effects.

19 . An idiosyncratic side effect associated with oxcarbazepine is

- ☒ A) rash.
- B) depression.
- C) hyperactivity.
- D) Stevens-Johnson syndrome.

20 . Which of the following is TRUE regarding carbamazepine?

- ☒ A) Results in hyperactivity
- B) Useful in absence seizures
- C) Usually started at a high dose
- D) Life-threatening side effect is agranulocytosis

21 . Ethosuximide is useful for patients with which seizure type?

- A) Atonic
- ☒ B) Absence
- C) Tonic-clonic
- D) Complex partial

22 . Pregabalin is indicated for which of the following types of seizures?

- ☒ A) Focal
- B) Lennox-Gastaut
- C) Status epilepticus
- D) Generalized tonic-clonic

23 . A corpus callosotomy

- A) is generally more useful for focal seizures.
- B) has a lower complication rate than lobectomy.
- ☒ C) is characterized by multiple small incisions made throughout the brain.
- D) may result in complications such as impaired muscular activity and visual defects.

24 . The ketogenic diet is high in

- ☒ A) fat.

- B) fluids.
- C) protein.
- D) carbohydrates.

25 . Complications during a seizure can include all of the following, EXCEPT:

- A) Burns and bruises
- ☒ B) Pneumonia and sinusitis
- C) Abrasions and head injuries
- D) Tongue bite and broken bones

26 . The first concern for a patient experiencing status epilepticus is

- A) obtaining an EEG.
- B) maintaining a clear airway.
- C) determining the cardiac rhythm.
- ☒ D) the administration of antiepileptic drugs.

27 . Of the following AEDs, which is the drug of choice for emergent treatment of status epilepticus?

- A) Primidone
- B) Felbamate
- ☒ C) Lorazepam
- D) Ethosuximide

28 . When a patient is having a seizure, an appropriate action is to

- A) time the seizure duration.
- B) provide for the patient's safety.
- C) stay with the individual until he or she is conscious.
- ☒ D) All of the above

29 . Epilepsy can be prevented by all of the following, EXCEPT:

- A) Reducing traumas
- B) High doses of vitamin C
- C) Reducing substance abuse
- ☒ D) Reducing childhood infections and toxic ingestions

30 . When making decisions regarding driving restrictions for patients with epilepsy, the most important consideration is the

- A) patient's freedom.

- B) physician's opinion.
- C) job status of the patient.
- ☒ D) safety of the patient and others.