

ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

FELLOWSHIP EXAMINATION

NEUROSURGERY

FIRST PAPER - 2 HOURS

Monday, 5 September 2005

All Questions must be answered and are of equal value

Question 1

A 70 year old woman is referred with progressive confusion and ventriculomegaly noted on CT scan. She has moderately large ventricles with a degree of cerebral atrophy. There is a history of gait disturbance, but no incontinence.

- a. Discuss your differential diagnosis.
- b. Discuss diagnostic methods for normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH)
- c. Describe treatment options for normal pressure hydrocephalus.
- d. Describe a management plan for this patient including a description of any procedures and their potential risks and benefits.

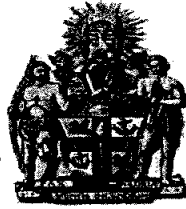
Question 2

Write notes on:

- a. Cortical dysplasia.
- b. Spinal cord stimulation.
- c. Anterior sacral meningocele.
- d. Molecular genetics of oligodendroglioma.
- e. Discitis.

Question 3

Neurosurgery MCQ Paper - (30 questions - 30 minutes). Please follow instructions as detailed on accompanying MCQ Papers



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SECOND PAPER - 2 HOURS

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Question 4

Give an account of the embryological development of the spinal cord. Include in your answer a description of the congenital abnormalities of the spinal cord and its surroundings.

Question 5

A 60 year old obese female presents with longstanding intermittent back pain together with 6 months of left sciatica. The leg pain is now worse than the back pain, but both are disabling. The principal neurological finding is a depressed left knee jerk. She has a grade 1 spondylolisthesis at **L4-5** on plain films and CT scan shows marked central and lateral canal stenosis at the site of the slip.

- A. How would you interpret the neurology in this patient?
- B. Would you advise further investigations and give reasons why?
- C. How would you advise the patient? In particular, discuss surgical management.

Postoperatively the patient is initially well but several hours later, pain control becomes difficult and she reports paraesthesiae increasing in both leg together with difficulty micturating.

- D. What is the likely problem and how would you manage this situation?

Question 6

Write short notes on:

- A. Post traumatic syringomyelia
- B. Brain stem gliomas in adults
- C. Wallenberg's syndrome
- D. Acute subdural haemorrhage in a patient on Clopidogrel
- E. Moya-Moya Disease