

CHAPTER 21 Review Questions

1. The most likely complication of broken ribs is:
 - A. painful breathing, which leads to hypoxia.
 - B. bleeding in the chest from a punctured lung.
 - C. spinal cord damage from splintered ribs.
 - D. damage to the diaphragm.
2. A spontaneous pneumothorax occurs when there is:
 - A. infection in the chest wall.
 - B. penetrating injury to the chest.
 - C. damage to the pericardium.
 - D. a rupture in a weak area in the lung.
3. Which of the following is true regarding a hemothorax?
 - A. It is caused by air in the pleural space.
 - B. There is significant concern for infection.
 - C. There is always an associated abdominal injury.
 - D. Blood in the pleural space limits proper gas exchange.
4. Signs and symptoms of a pneumothorax include all of the following EXCEPT:
 - A. sharp painful breathing.
 - B. increased respiratory rate.
 - C. coughing up blood.
 - D. shallow breathing.
5. All of the following are closed chest injuries EXCEPT:
 - A. a flail chest.
 - B. a stab wound to the armpit.
 - C. broken ribs.
 - D. spontaneous pneumothorax.
6. Paradoxical movement indicates a:
 - A. flail chest.
 - B. pneumothorax.
 - C. hemothorax.
 - D. cardiac tamponade.
7. Your patient was injured when his airbag deployed during a head-on collision. He complains of acute pain when breathing and has trouble catching his breath. Your physical exam reveals a flail segment on the left side of his chest. You recognize that a flail segment can be a life threat because:
 - A. this increases his chances of infection.
 - B. he likely has an accompanying head injury.
 - C. it can greatly decrease his tidal volume.
 - D. he has an open chest injury.

8. Which of the following best describes the mediastinum?
 - A. The space between the inner and outer lining of the lungs
 - B. The space that houses the heart, aorta, and esophagus
 - C. The fibrous sac surrounding the heart
 - D. The space between the ribs and the diaphragm

9. Each lung is surrounded by a thin, saclike structure called the:
 - A. pericardium.
 - B. alveoli.
 - C. pleura.
 - D. clavicle.

10. Injuries to the chest can be life threatening because:
 - A. damage to the lungs and chest wall can greatly affect ventilation.
 - B. chest injuries cause a lot of pain.
 - C. damage to the stomach and kidneys cause significant blood loss.
 - D. chest injury patients are at great risk for infection and sepsis.

11. Your patient presents with a single stab wound to the right chest. He complains of sharp pain while breathing and feels short of breath. His lung sounds are clear on the left but diminished on the right. You suspect:
 - A. injury to the larynx.
 - B. spinal injury.
 - C. flail chest.
 - D. pneumothorax.

12. Sucking chest wounds must be sealed immediately to prevent:
 - A. infection.
 - B. blood entering the chest.
 - C. air from entering the chest cavity.
 - D. excessive bleeding.

13. A 47-year-old female presents with a single gunshot wound to the chest. You can see and hear air moving in and out of the wound. You should:
 - A. irrigate it with normal saline.
 - B. apply antibiotic cream to the wound.
 - C. place a gloved hand over the wound.
 - D. apply a nonrebreather mask.

14. Any penetrating trauma to the chest wall should be covered with:
 - A. sterile bandages.
 - B. 4x4 gauze.
 - C. bulky dressings.
 - D. an occlusive dressing.

15. Your patient presents with a piece of rebar impaled in his chest. You should:
 - A. remove the rebar and apply an occlusive dressing.
 - B. cut the rebar as close to the patient as possible.
 - C. stabilize the object with bulky dressings.
 - D. do nothing until a higher level of care arrives.

16. Your patient has an open chest injury with a sucking chest wound. You have treated his wound appropriately, but you notice that he is having increasing difficulty breathing, and you note that his chest seems to be enlarging. You should:
 - A. increase the oxygen flow to the nonrebreather mask.
 - B. release one edge of the occlusive dressing.
 - C. position the patient on his uninjured side.
 - D. press gently on his chest to relieve the pressure.

17. The abdominal cavity is separated from the chest cavity by the:
 - A. diaphragm.
 - B. liver.
 - C. stomach.
 - D. rib cage.

18. All of the following would be considered “hollow organs” EXCEPT the:
 - A. liver.
 - B. stomach.
 - C. bladder.
 - D. intestines.

19. Your patient is vomiting bright red blood. You should suspect:
 - A. appendicitis.
 - B. tension pneumothorax.
 - C. diverticulitis.
 - D. active internal bleeding.

20. When a patient is “guarding” his abdomen, you will notice that he:
 - A. crosses his feet at his ankles and covers his stomach with his hands.
 - B. bends his head and upper chest toward his feet.
 - C. sits up with his knees drawn up to his chest.
 - D. tightens his abdominal muscles when you palpate the abdomen.

21. Care for an evisceration includes:
 - A. covering the wound with a moist, sterile dressing.
 - B. irrigating the wound with warm saline.
 - C. placing a bulky dressing on the wound.
 - D. putting hot packs on the dressing to prevent heat loss.

22. A 16-year-old male is complaining of dizziness and shortness of breath. He states that he was tackled hard at football practice yesterday and has experienced left-sided rib pain while breathing ever since. You should:
- A. administer aspirin for the pain.
 - B. ask the patient to smile to assess for facial symmetry.
 - C. administer oxygen if allowed.
 - D. treat for shock.
23. Your patient is experiencing sharp, stabbing pain to his right flank. You suspect he might be experiencing:
- A. a pneumothorax.
 - B. pericarditis.
 - C. kidney stones.
 - D. a hemothorax.
24. It is important for the Emergency Medical Responder to assume any woman of childbearing age with abdominal pain is pregnant until proven otherwise because:
- A. pregnant women have an increased risk for pneumothorax.
 - B. pregnancy causes an increased likelihood of septic infection.
 - C. early pregnancy complications can be life threatening.
 - D. some women are likely to lie about being pregnant.
25. Appropriate assessment and care of a patient with abdominal pain includes:
- A. palpating the abdomen in all four quadrants.
 - B. applying ice packs to the abdomen.
 - C. applying heat packs to the abdomen.
 - D. palpating the femoral pulses.
26. Your patient has sustained a serious chest injury and appears to have a flail segment with difficulty breathing. You should:
- A. wrap the chest tightly with a pressure dressing around the chest.
 - B. administer oxygen and support ventilations as needed.
 - C. have the patient lie flat on his back.
 - D. apply a sling and swathe.