

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Answers

1. What anatomical feature would make deep puncture with an acupuncture needle at CV.17 potentially fatal?
(1 mark)
2. What is the prevalence of this feature?
Less than 1 in 100,000
Less than 1 in 100
Greater than 1 in 100
(1 mark)
3. Is this feature generally detectable by external examination?
(1 mark)
4. What anatomical structure is potentially at risk from needling at GB.21?
(1 mark for either)
5. What is the main risk associated with needling GB.21 or any other point over the rib cage?
(1 mark)
6. What needle angulation should be used at GB.21 to minimise risk?
Perpendicular to the skin
Vertical
Tangential to the rib cage
(1 mark)
7. Up to how long after needling over the rib cage can the symptoms of a pneumothorax develop?
2 hours
2 days
2 weeks
(1 mark)
8. Describe three techniques that can be employed when needling over the rib cage to minimise the risk of pneumothorax. (Short phrases are all that is required, for example: “Perpendicular needling in an interspace” would be a wrong answer in an appropriate style).
(3 marks)

9. What is the most important immediate therapeutic action that should be applied to a patient with a tension pneumothorax?

(1 mark)

10. Name the medical condition that is an absolute contraindication to the use of indwelling needles?

(1 mark)

11. What is the risk of using indwelling needles in this condition?

(1 mark)

12. Indwelling needles should be used with caution in debilitated patients. What potentially fatal condition are they more at risk of developing?

(1 mark)

13. The use of which type of needle will minimise the risk of blood borne infection?

Reusable

Disposable

Indwelling

(1 mark)

14. Which acupuncture point can be used in any trimester without risk to the pregnancy, and what is the reason for our confidence in its safety?

(2 marks)

15. In which two areas of the body should electroacupuncture be used with particular caution?

Face

Cervical spine

Anterior triangle of the neck

Thoracic spine

Across the chest

Lumbar spine

Abdomen

(2 marks)

16. Which two medical conditions might lead you to avoid the use of electroacupuncture?

Diabetes

Epilepsy

Valvular heart disease

Dysrhythmias controlled with a demand pacemaker

(2 marks)

17. If you choose to treat a patient who is taking warfarin, in which areas of the leg would you avoid vigorous needling, and why?

(2 marks)

18. Bleeding diatheses are not an absolute contraindication to acupuncture, but in which one of the following cases should needling be avoided?

Platelet count of $50 \times 10^9/l$

Spontaneous bruising

INR of 3.5

(1 mark)

19. Which potentially beneficial side effect of acupuncture should you always discuss with a patient at their first session? Why?

(2 marks)

20. Which position should you instruct your patient to assume for their first acupuncture treatment?

(1 mark)

21. If you leave a patient alone in a treatment room with needles retained, what should always be left within their reach?

(1 mark)

22. Name four visible pathological lesions that should be avoided when needling into or through an area of skin?

(1 mark for each to a maximum of 4 marks)

Total 32 marks