

### Question 17 – 11 marks

A 3 month baby is brought to your regional Emergency department with a new lump in his left groin.



1. List four (4) differential diagnoses for his condition

- Left inguinal hernia (overwhelmingly indirect, rarely direct)
- Undescended testicle
- Lymph node / lymphadenopathy
- Femoral hernia (rare)
- Abscess (rare)

The most common incorrect answers were hydrocele and hip dislocation. Hydrocoeles extend into the scrotum by definition, excepting a less common hydrocele of the cord, but no one mentioned this. Congenital hip dislocations do not present as a groin lump.

Tumours, non accidental injury, testicular torsion, sebaceous cysts were commonly cited, but not accepted.

## 2. List three (3) likely complications of this condition

(This was dependent on the correct differential of an inguinal hernia in question 1)

- pain
- incarceration
- Strangulation/ ischaemic bowel
- Bowel obstruction
- Bowel perforation
- Testicular infarction
- Sepsis

Some candidates showed a lack of understanding of terminology

- incarceration = irreducible, but no compromise to bowel/omental contents within the hernia
- strangulation = compromise to the blood flow to contents of hernia – leads to ischaemia, may lead to necrosis, perforation, obstruction and sepsis.

## 3. List four (4) predisposing factors for this condition

- Male sex
- Prematurity
- Low birth weight
- Abnormal development of the urological system (ie cryptorchidism, hypospadias, ambiguous genitalia)
- Increased intraabdominal pressure (ie ventriculoperitoneal shunts, peritoneal dialysis, or ascites) constipation
- Abdominal wall defects ( ie gastroschisis, omphalocele)
- Family history (ie cystic fibrosis, connective tissue diseases)

‘family history’ without example was awarded ½ mark.

‘congenital’ without example was awarded ½ mark

Pass mark was 7/11 but I think that I have been too generous. If you received less than 7.5 it would be worth reviewing this topic.