

Q 23

An 80 year old female is brought in to the Emergency department from home by her family. She has a past history of hypertension, hyperlipidemia and depression. She was last seen the previous day when she seemed lethargic.

Her vital signs on arrival:

BP 70/50 mmHg

HR 40 /min

Temp 31 °C

O2 Sat 80% 40% FiO2

GCS 10 E3V2M5,

a) List four (4) differential diagnoses. (4 marks)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

b) Outline four (4) steps in her management. (5 marks)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

c) In general, list the differences between resuscitation of a normothermic patient versus a hypothermic patient.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

MY TIPS:

- if asked to list 4, only list 4
- if you are choosing only 4 (of many), ensure you are choosing the most important ones...
- if the question is general, answers that are too specific will probably not be the right fit.
- this is a fellowship exam and your answers should match that level.

MY SUGGESTED ANSWERS

a)

hypothermia (environmental)

sepsis

cardiovascular (CVS/ CNS)

toxicology (OD),

...

b)

establish GoC

warming patient (endogenous, exogenous: external/core)

seek and treat underlying causes

seek and treat complications

c)

may need prolonged resuscitation

absence of vital signs does NOT necessarily indicate death

optimal rate and technique of CPR in unknown

inefficiency of defibrillation in low body temperature

inefficiency of drugs (absorption and metabolism) in low body temperature

risk of too much handling causing VF

risk of hypotension during rehydration (after-drop)

