



# **Trial SAQ**

Graeme Thomson

---

- A 30 years old woman with known Sickle Cell Anaemia (HbS) has presented after sudden onset of severe abdominal pain.
- Her observations are: BP 100/60; Pulse Rate 120/min; Temp 37.3 °C; Resp Rate 16/min; O<sup>2</sup> Sat 97%.

# Sickle Cell Anaemia

---

- A 30 years old woman with known Sickle Cell Anaemia (HbS) has presented after sudden onset of severe abdominal pain.
- Her observations are: BP 100/60; Pulse Rate 120/min; Temp 37.3 °C; Resp Rate 16/min; O<sup>2</sup> Sat 97%.

# Reading the question

---

- Test knowledge of a rare problem that can present with important acute complications.
- Test ability to score marks when you think you know nothing about a topic (damage limitation).

# **Why include this topic?**

---

- List 4 acute severe complications of Sickle Cell Anaemia that this lady is likely to develop.

**Question (a) 4 marks**

---

- Haemolytic anaemia
  - Sickling crisis (vaso-occlusive)
  - Aplastic crisis
  - Infections, esp Streptococcal and Salmonella
  - Stroke
  - Acute coronary syndrome
  - Bone infarcts
  - Splenic infarcts
  - Pulmonary hypertension
  - Acute Chest Syndrome
  - Ileus
  - Renal failure
  - DIC
- 
- Rarer things not accepted (asked for likely problems)

# Question (a) answers

---

- Outline 4 factors that would influence your decision to give this lady a blood transfusion on this occasion.

**Question (b) 4 marks**

---

- Hb level < 70 or much lower than her usual
  - Advice from her haematologist
  - Patient's wishes
  - Availability of suitable blood
  - Previous transfusion reactions
  - Cardiac function
  - Persistent hypotension or hypoxia
  - Clinical deterioration
  - Active haemorrhage
  - Active haemolysis or DIC
  - End organ dysfunction
- 
- Remember that this patient may have many transfusions over her lifetime so they should be limited to reduce complications.

# Question (b) answers

---



- Outline 4 factors that would influence your decision to administer intravenous morphine for her pain.

**Question (c) 4 marks**

---

- Severity of pain
- Lack of efficacy of alternative analgesics
- Allergy status
- Patient wishes
- Other medications
- Previous opiate use and abuse
- IV access problems
- Unable to tolerate oral meds or on nil orally order
- Decreased conscious state or BP
- Existing management plan

# Question (c) answers

---

- Answers that are too similar to each other to score separately
- Vague answers without numbers or specific diagnoses

# **Common General Errors**

---

- Median score = 9
- Range = 6-11
- If 8 was the pass mark then 27/33 passed.

# Results

---