Chapter 9 - Thoracic Injuries Test Questions

1. Which injuries are considered life-threatening requiring immediate intervention?
   a. Tension pneumothorax and pericardial tamponade
   b. Cardiac contusion and rib fractures
   c. Clavicle fracture and pulmonary contusion
   d. Pneumomediastinum and subcutaneous emphysema

2. What is an early sign of tension pneumothorax?
   a. Tracheal deviation
   b. Respiratory distress
   c. Increased cardiac output
   d. Epistaxis

3. What is the immediate management of tension pneumothorax?
   a. Chest tube placement in 7th intercostal space
   b. Place a three-sided dressing over chest tube site
   c. Needle thoracentesis in 2nd intercostal space
   d. ED thoracotomy

4. Flail chest is defined as:
   a. Multiple rib fractures with subsequent subcutaneous emphysema
   b. Chyle in the pleural space
   c. Excess fluid in pericardium
   d. Two or more ribs fractured at two points

5. Which patient would benefit most from an emergent thoracotomy?
   a. 48 year old patient with gunshot wound to the back who lost vital signs upon arrival to the ED
   b. 12 year old patient with traumatic asphyxia with CPR in progress for past 15 minutes upon arrival to the ED
   c. 16 year old patient with traumatic amputation of arm with CPR in progress for 5 minutes
   d. 19 year old patient with stab wound to chest who arrived with fixed and dilated pupils.

6. A nasogastric tube was inserted in a trauma patient. A follow-up chest radiograph shows abdominal contents in the chest cavity. The nurse should be suspicious of:
   a. Diaphragmatic rupture
   b. Chylothorax
   c. Pleural effusion
   d. Tension pneumothorax
7. What is the most appropriate immediate nursing intervention for a patient who has pulled out their chest tube?
   a. Restrain patient and place bed in trendelenberg position.
   b. Cover site with a dressing and contact the physician
   c. Apply oxygen per face mask and order chest x-ray
   d. Monitor for air leaks and report subcutaneous emphysema

8. What is a significant nursing intervention to reduce morbidity in the patient with rib fractures?
   a. Aggressive pulmonary toilet
   b. Monitoring supplemental oxygen
   c. Application of sequential stockings
   d. Administering cough suppressant medication

9. What is the most common medical intervention required for patients with thoracic trauma?
   a. Chest tube insertion
   b. Thoracotomy
   c. VATS (video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery)
   d. Pericardiocentesis

10. Three days post motor vehicle crash, a patient was started on a regular diet. The nurse noticed the patient’s chest tube drainage changed from serous-sanguineous to milky white. The physician orders for the fluid to be sent for triglyceride and chylomicron levels. The nurse suspects the patient may have:
    a. Thoracic duct injury with chylothorax
    b. Pulmonary contusion with empyema
    c. Retained hemothorax with interstitial bleeding
    d. Persistent air leak with pneumatocele