4. Yes, the infant is in SVT, and following basic life support protocol, airway and respiratory management are the priority. In the case of stable SVT, vagal maneuvers and adenosine are the first line in management. If those interventions are unsuccessful, electrical cardioversion may be performed only in the presence of an experienced practitioner.

Chapter 25

Fever and Neutropenia

1. It is important to note that approximately 10 days after administration of chemotherapeutic agents, patients hit their nadir (time at which their blood counts are at the lowest). At this time in the patient's treatment, it is crucial to note any fever (as defined by the treating institution), because this may be the only sign of an infection. Other areas of concern include altered skin integrity with the accessed Port-A-Cath. Is there any drainage, foul odor, bleeding, erythema, or tenderness at the site?

2. A detailed physical assessment should be performed to identify any signs of infection. Physical assessment reveals that the patient is febrile and has a potential source of infection (mucositis). Chemotherapeutic agents work on all rapidly dividing cells, including the hematopoietic cells, hair, cells that line the gastrointestinal (GI) tract from the mouth to the anus, and the rapidly dividing cancer cells. As the blood counts drop, particularly the neutrophils, patients are at risk for developing infections. Rapidly dividing cells are killed at a rate much quicker than they typically die on their own, which results in a delay in the repair to the mucosa. Mucositis has been defined as an inflammation or an ulceration of the mucous membranes of the GI lining. Because of the presence of bacteria in the mouth and the breaks in the mucosa, the patient is at risk for developing infections.

3. Orders for medications and laboratory tests should be reviewed for an acetaminophen order, antibiotic or antifungal agents, and parameters on how often blood should be drawn and cultures obtained. If a blood culture is required, it should be drawn