

Chapter 25, Cholinergic Drugs

1. A client has been prescribed pyridostigmine for myasthenia gravis. The nurse would be alert for the development of which adverse reaction following the administration?
 - A) Seizure disorder
 - B) Reduction of visual acuity
 - C) Abdominal discomfort
 - D) Cardiac arrhythmias

Answer: D

Rationale: The nurse should monitor for cardiac arrhythmias as a general adverse reaction in the client. Seizure disorder, reduction of visual acuity, and abdominal discomfort are not pyridostigmine-related adverse reactions. Reduction of visual acuity is related to topical ophthalmics. When the client is receiving bethanechol for urinary retention, the nurse needs to examine for abdominal discomfort, which is an adverse reaction of bethanechol and not pyridostigmine. Seizures are a potential adverse reaction with lithium toxicity.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 313, Summary Drug Table

2. A client with urinary retention is prescribed bethanechol. The nurse will administer this cautiously if which disorder is noted in the client's medical record?
 - A) Raynaud disease
 - B) Bradycardia
 - C) Coronary artery disease
 - D) Hyperthyroidism

Answer: B

Rationale: The nurse should administer bethanechol cautiously if a client has bradycardia, hypertension, epilepsy, cardiac arrhythmias, recent coronary occlusion, or megacolon. Individuals with coronary artery disease and hyperthyroidism should not receive bethanechol as it is contraindicated. Individuals with Raynaud disease should not receive alpha-adrenergic blocking drugs.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential
Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)
Reference: p. 310, Precautions

3. A client was emergently administered bethanechol. Which finding on ongoing assessment should the nurse **prioritize** and notify the health care provider immediately?
- A) Failure to void
 - B) Frequent emesis
 - C) Increased abdominal pain
 - D) Hematuria

Answer: A

Rationale: Bethanechol is used to treat acute nonobstructive urinary retention. The nurse should notify the primary health care provider if the client fails to void after drug administration. Nausea, emesis, and increased abdominal pain are adverse effects of bethanechol. Hematuria is a potential adverse reaction to sulfasalazine, a disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD).

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Urinary Retention

4. The nurse is caring for a client with myasthenia gravis and has been administering pyridostigmine. The nurse suspects the client needs an increased dose based on which assessment finding?
- A) Clenching of the jaw
 - B) Muscle spasms
 - C) Difficulty breathing
 - D) Abdominal cramping

Answer: C

Rationale: The nurse should monitor for difficulty breathing as a symptom of drug underdosage. Additional signs of underdosing include signs of the disease, rapid fatigability of muscles, and drooping of eyelids. Signs of overdosing include muscle rigidity and spasms, salivation, and clenching of jaw. Abdominal cramping may occur in the client who is receiving guanidine.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Analyze

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Managing Myasthenia Gravis

5. The nurse is preparing a teaching plan for a client and caregiver concerning the cholinergic drug therapy that has been prescribed. Which teaching point should the nurse **prioritize**?
- A) Instructions to avoid fiber-rich food during therapy
 - B) Importance of adopting a self-monitoring blood pressure program
 - C) Review of the purpose of the drug therapy with the client and family
 - D) Evaluation of the client's previous history of disorders

Answer: C

Rationale: The nurse should review the purpose of the drug therapy with the client and family when developing a teaching plan for a client receiving outpatient therapy with a cholinergic drug. Diarrhea is a potential adverse reaction for which eating fiber may help counteract. These drugs should be used cautiously in clients with a history of hypertension, so the client may already be accomplishing this goal. The nurse should include the client's previous history in the preadministration assessment and not at this later time.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 5

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 312, Educating the Client and Family

6. A nurse is preparing to administer an ophthalmic cholinergic drug to a new client. The nurse should question this administration of the drug if which past history is noted in the client's medical record?
- A) Cataracts
 - B) Diabetic retinopathy
 - C) Megacolon
 - D) Corneal abrasion

Answer: D

Rationale: The nurse should know that ophthalmic cholinergic drugs are used to treat secondary glaucoma and are contraindicated in clients with corneal abrasions. The use of ophthalmic cholinergic drugs is not contraindicated in clients with cataracts, diabetic retinopathy, or megacolon. Cholinergic drugs are used cautiously in clients with megacolon.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Precautions

7. The nurse administers bethanechol to a client with urinary retention at 9:30 a.m. The nurse would notify the primary health care provider if the client has not voided by which time?
- A) 11:30 a.m.
 - B) 10 a.m.
 - C) 10:30 a.m.
 - D) 11 a.m.

Answer: D

Rationale: When bethanechol is administered orally, the client should void within 30–90 minutes. Therefore, if the client has not yet voided by 11 a.m., the nurse should notify the primary health care provider.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Analyze

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Managing Urinary Retention

8. A client with myasthenia gravis who is prescribed pyridostigmine comes to the emergency department reporting abdominal cramping, excessive diarrhea, and severe muscle weakness. The nurse would suspect which situation is occurring?
- A) Underdosage of the drug
 - B) Tolerance to the drug
 - C) Cholinergic crisis
 - D) Underlying infection

Answer: C

Rationale: Cholinergic crisis (cholinergic drug toxicity) symptoms include severe abdominal cramping; diarrhea; excessive salivation; muscle weakness, rigidity, and spasms; and clenching of the jaw. Signs of drug underdosage are signs of the disease itself, namely, rapid fatigability of the muscles, drooping of the eyelids, and difficulty breathing. Tolerance would be indicated by a reduction in the adverse reactions to the drug that the client was experiencing. There is no information to suggest that the client has an underlying infection.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Ongoing Assessment

9. A nursing instructor is conducting a teaching session about the parasympathetic nervous system. The instructor determines the session is successful when the students correctly choose which receptors are involved with stimulating smooth muscles?
- A) Nicotinic
 - B) Muscarinic
 - C) Alpha
 - D) Beta

Answer: B

Rationale: There are two types of receptors in the parasympathetic nervous branch: muscarinic receptors (which stimulate smooth muscle) and nicotinic receptors (which stimulate skeletal muscle). Alpha and beta receptors are found in the sympathetic nervous system.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 1

Cognitive Level: Understand

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 308, Autonomic Terminology

10. A nurse is preparing to administer a cholinergic medication. To prepare to administer the medication, the nurses is assessing the client for anticholinergic effects. Cholinergic medications act like which neurotransmitter?
- A) Serotonin
 - B) Dopamine
 - C) Acetylcholine
 - D) Norepinephrine

Answer: C

Rationale: Cholinergic drugs act like the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. Serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine are the neurotransmitters that affect mood.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Understand

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 308, Autonomic Terminology

11. A client is reporting diarrhea, rigidity, and spasm after receiving pyridostigmine. Which medication is appropriate to suggest to the prescriber?
- A) Alprazolam
 - B) Morphine sulfate

- C) Atropine
- D) Loperamide

Answer: C

Rationale: The client is exhibiting a cholinergic crisis. An antidote of atropine 0.4–0.6 mg intravenously should be administered. Alprazolam is a benzodiazepine and it is not indicated. Morphine sulfate is an opioid and the client is not having pain. Loperamide is an antidiarrheal, but the reported adverse effects identify a cholinergic crisis and not a medication to just treat the diarrhea.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 4

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Interactions

12. A client diagnosed with myasthenia gravis is being discharged home after a crisis. Which should be included in the teaching plan?
- A) Teach the client to adjust the dosage based on their needs.
 - B) Explain that no modification of the drug therapy is encouraged.
 - C) Instruct the family to withhold the medication if they feel it is necessary.
 - D) Identify strategies to cope with the depression associated with the disease.

Answer: A

Rationale: Clients with myasthenia gravis learn to adjust their drug dosage according to their needs because dosage needs may vary slightly from day to day. Teach the client and family members to feel confident in recognizing symptoms of over- and underdosage, as well as what steps the primary health care providers wishes them to take if either occurs. The dosage regimen is explained and instruction is given in how to adjust the dosage upward or downward.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 5

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 311, Myasthenia Gravis

13. Which nursing diagnosis is **most** likely related to the treatment of myasthenia gravis?
- A) Pain
 - B) Diarrhea
 - C) Infection
 - D) Respiratory complications

Answer: B

Rationale: Documentation of adverse drug reactions such as diarrhea is associated with a cholinergic response. Pain, infection, and respiratory complications are not associated with myasthenia gravis.

Question format: Multiple Choice

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 4

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Nursing Diagnosis

14. A nursing instructor is preparing a class for a group of nursing students about cholinergic drugs. When describing the enzyme acetylcholinesterase, which fact(s) would the instructor **most** likely include about this enzyme? Select all that apply.
- A) Makes the parasympathetic nervous system function differently
 - B) Inactivates the neurotransmitter serotonin
 - C) Activates the neurotransmitter acetylcholine
 - D) Inactivates the neurotransmitter norepinephrine
 - E) Results in the prevention of nerve synapses to continue nerve impulses

Answer: A, E

Rationale: Acetylcholinesterase makes the parasympathetic nervous system function differently by inactivating the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, thereby preventing the nerve synapse from continuing the nerve impulse. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin and norepinephrine or dopamine and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs or DNRIs) block the reuptake of serotonin. SNRIs and DNRIs also block norepinephrine. Cholinergic drugs activate the neurotransmitter acetylcholine.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 1

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 308, Autonomic Terminology

15. The nurse is preparing to administer a cholinergic drug. The nurse concludes that the client may have which condition(s)? Select all that apply.
- A) Urinary retention
 - B) Overactive bladder
 - C) Myasthenia gravis
 - D) Parkinson disease
 - E) Graves disease

Answer: A, C

Rationale: Cholinergic drugs can be used to treat urinary retention, myasthenia gravis, and glaucoma. Dopaminergic drugs, dopamine receptor agonists, COMT inhibitors, and anticholinergics are used to treat Parkinson disease. Antithyroid drugs are used in the treatment of Graves disease. Antispasmodics are used for overactive bladders.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 309, Uses

16. A nurse is preparing to administer a cholinergic agent to a client. Which finding(s) on the ongoing assessment should the nurse **prioritize**? Select all that apply.

- A) Nausea
- B) Headache
- C) Nasal congestion
- D) Salivation
- E) Constipation

Answer: A, D

Rationale: General adverse reactions of all cholinergic agents include nausea, diarrhea (not constipation), abdominal cramping, salivation, flushing of skin, cardiac arrhythmias, and muscle weakness. Headache is a possible adverse reaction to just bethanechol. Nasal congestion is a potential adverse reaction to antiadrenergic drugs.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 309, Adverse Reactions

17. When teaching the client about pyridostigmine, which symptom(s) would the nurse include as a possible adverse reaction? Select all that apply.

- A) Constipation
- B) Nausea
- C) Dry mouth
- D) Skin flushing
- E) Muscle rigidity

Answer: B, D

Rationale: Pyridostigmine is an oral cholinergic medication used in the treatment of myasthenia gravis. Specific adverse reactions include increased bronchial secretions, cardiac arrhythmias, and muscle weakness. General adverse reactions associated with oral administration of all cholinergic medications include nausea, diarrhea, abdominal cramping, salivation, skin flushing, cardiac arrhythmias, and muscle weakness.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 309, Adverse Reactions

18. A nurse is preparing to administer a cholinergic drug to a client. The nurse should question administering this drug if which disorder(s) is noted in the client's record? Select all that apply.
- A) Bradycardia
 - B) Megacolon
 - C) Asthma
 - D) Hyperthyroidism
 - E) Peptic ulcer disease

Answer: C, D, E

Rationale: The use of cholinergic drugs is contraindicated in clients with known hypersensitivity to the drugs, asthma, peptic ulcer disease, coronary artery disease, and hyperthyroidism. Bethanechol is contraindicated with mechanical obstruction of the gastrointestinal or genitourinary tracts. Clients with secondary glaucoma, iritis, corneal abrasions, or acute inflammatory eye disease should not use ophthalmic cholinergic preparations.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Contraindications

19. A nurse is preparing to administer guanidine to a client. The nurse will administer this medication cautiously if which disorder(s) is noted in the client's record? Select all that apply.
- A) Coronary artery disease
 - B) Hypertension
 - C) Tachycardia
 - D) Hypersensitivity
 - E) Megacolon

Answer: B, D, E

Rationale: Cholinergic drugs, like guanidine, are used cautiously in clients with hypertension, epilepsy, cardiac arrhythmias, bradycardia, recent coronary occlusion, and megacolon. Coronary artery disease is a contraindication for these medications. Hypersensitivity to any medication is a contraindication and medication should not be given.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Precautions

20. When assessing a client receiving a cholinergic drug, the nurse would assess the client for increased neuromuscular blocking effects if the client is also receiving which additional drug(s)? Select all that apply.
- A) Amoxicillin
 - B) Tobramycin
 - C) Cephalexin
 - D) Neomycin
 - E) Clarithromycin

Answer: B, D

Rationale: Cholinergic drugs administered concomitantly with aminoglycoside antibiotics, like tobramycin and neomycin, can result in increased neuromuscular blocking effects. There are no recognized contraindications in using an aminopenicillin, cephalosporin, or macrolide with a cholinergic drug.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Interactions

21. A client who recently started bethanechol is reporting it does not appear to be effective. The nurse should question the client concerning which additional drug(s) they may be taking and not reporting? Select all that apply.
- A) Prednisone
 - B) Oxycodone
 - C) Diclofenac
 - D) Dexamethasone
 - E) Ibuprofen

Answer: A, D

Rationale: Cholinergic drugs administered concomitantly with corticosteroids, like prednisone and dexamethasone, can result in increased adverse effects of the cholinergic drug. There are no recognized interactions with opioid analgesics (oxycodone) or NSAIDs (diclofenac and ibuprofen).

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Interactions

22. The nurse is preparing to administer bethanechol to an elderly client. Which assessment(s) should the nurse **prioritize** before administering this drug? Select all that apply.
- A) Palpation of the bladder
 - B) Palpation of the thyroid
 - C) Blood glucose
 - D) Blood pressure
 - E) Pulse rate

Answer: A, D, E

Rationale: Bethanechol is used to treat urinary retentions. The nurse's preadministration assessment should include palpation of the bladder, blood pressure, and pulse rate. There is no need to palpate the thyroid before administration of the medication. The blood glucose should be checked before administering diabetic medication.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Urinary Retention

23. The health care provider has prescribed pyridostigmine for a client. Which assessment(s) should the nurse **prioritize** on the preadministration assessment? Select all that apply.
- A) Palpation of the bladder
 - B) Palpation of the thyroid
 - C) Evidence of muscle weakness
 - D) Signs of difficulty breathing
 - E) Drooping of eyelids

Answer: C, D, E

Rationale: Pyridostigmine is used to treat myasthenia gravis. The nurse's preadministration assessment should include assessment for signs of muscle weakness, such as drooling, inability to chew and swallow, drooping eyelids, inability to perform repetitive movements, difficulty breathing, and extreme fatigue. The nurse should palpate the bladder prior to administration of a direct-acting cholinergic such as bethanechol, which is prescribed for urinary retention. Pyridostigmine is contraindicated if hyperthyroidism is present, thus palpating the thyroid would be unnecessary.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Preadministration Assessment

24. A nurse enters a client's room who was recently administered a cholinergic drug and immediately contacts the health care provider. Which assessment finding(s) is the nurse witnessing? Select all that apply.
- A) Hypoglycemia
 - B) Excessive salivation
 - C) Severe abdominal cramping
 - D) Muscle rigidity
 - E) Muscle spasms

Answer: B, C, D, E

Rationale: A client receiving a cholinergic drug is at risk for a cholinergic crisis. The signs of cholinergic crisis include severe abdominal cramping; diarrhea; excessive salivation; muscle weakness, rigidity, and spasms; and clenching of the jaw. Any of these symptoms should be reported to the health care provider immediately.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Analyze

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Ongoing Assessment

25. A nurse is preparing to teach a client and caregiver about guanidine. Which instruction(s) should the nurse **prioritize** in this teaching? Select all that apply.
- A) How to adjust dosage
 - B) Indications of drug underdosage
 - C) The need to monitor blood glucose levels
 - D) How to keep a record of response to therapy
 - E) The need to wear medical identification

Answer: A, B, D, E

Rationale: Client and caregiver teaching should include signs and symptoms associated with under- and overdosage, instructions on how to adjust the dosage up or down, how to keep a record of the response to therapy, and the importance of wearing medical identification. There is no need for the client and family to monitor blood glucose levels unless the client also has diabetes.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 5

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 312, Educating the Client and Family

26. A nurse determines a nursing diagnosis of diarrhea is applicable for a client receiving cholinergic drug therapy. Which nursing action(s) will the nurse **prioritize** in the care plan? Select all that apply.
- A) Ensure that the client has readily available access to the bathroom.
 - B) Evaluate the number, frequency, and consistency of the stools.
 - C) Contact the primary health care provider for an order to switch to another cholinergic drug.
 - D) Limit the client's fluid intake to 1000 mL per day.
 - E) Maintain the client on strict bed rest.

Answer: A, B

Rationale: When a cholinergic drug is administered, the client may experience diarrhea. This reaction will continue until tolerance develops, usually within a few weeks. Until tolerance develops, the nurse needs to ensure that proper facilities, such as a bedside commode, bedpan, or bathroom, are readily available. The client is encouraged to ambulate to assist in the passing of flatus. If needed, a rectal tube may be used to assist in the passing of flatus. The nurse should document fluid intake and output and track the number, consistency, and frequency of stools if diarrhea is present. Since diarrhea occurs with any cholinergic drug, switching to another would be of no help. The client needs to replace fluids lost with diarrhea, so limiting fluid intake would be inappropriate. Ambulating to assist with the passage of flatus would be appropriate, while strict bed rest would not be necessary.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 4

Cognitive Level: Analyze

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Diarrhea

27. After teaching a group of nursing students about the parasympathetic nervous system, the instructor determines that the teaching was successful when the students correctly choose which as an action(s)? Select all that apply.
- A) Decreased salivary gland production

- B) Vasodilation
- C) Increased peristalsis
- D) Bronchodilation
- E) Pupillary constriction

Answer: B, C, E

Rationale: Stimulation of the parasympathetic nervous system results in the opposite reactions to those triggered by the adrenergic system: blood vessels dilate, sending blood to the gastrointestinal (GI) tract; secretions and peristalsis are activated and salivary glands increase, not decrease, production; the heart slows and pulmonary bronchioles constrict, not dilate; the smooth muscle of the bladder contracts; and the pupils of the eyes constrict.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 1

Cognitive Level: Analyze

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

Reference: p. 308, Autonomic Terminology

28. A nurse is assessing a client prior to giving a cholinergic drug for treatment of urinary retention. Which nursing assessment(s) should be completed prior to administration of a cholinergic? Select all that apply.
- A) Document pain assessment.
 - B) Administer antiemetic medication.
 - C) Assess blood pressure and pulse rate.
 - D) Palpate the abdomen in the pelvic area.
 - E) Scan the bladder to determine if urine retention is present.

Answer: C, D, E

Rationale: If a client receives a cholinergic drug for the treatment of urinary retention, palpate the abdomen in the pelvic area and scan the bladder to determine if urine retention is present. A rounded swelling over the pelvis usually indicates retention and distended bladder. The client may also report discomfort in the lower abdomen. Take and document the client's blood pressure and pulse rate. The medication is not for pain; therefore, a pain assessment is not warranted. The client is not reporting nausea and an antiemetic medication is not warranted.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 2

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 311, Urinary Retention

29. A nurse is concerned that a client may be having a cholinergic crisis. What sign and symptom(s) would the nurse assess for a cholinergic crisis? Select all that apply.
- A) Spasms
 - B) Jaw clenching
 - C) Muscle strength
 - D) Excessive salivation
 - E) Abdominal cramping

Answer: A, B, D, E

Rationale: Cholinergic crisis or cholinergic drug toxicity symptoms include severe abdominal cramping, diarrhea, excessive salivation, muscle weakness, rigidity and spasm, and clenching of the jaw.

Question format: Multiple Select

Chapter: 25

Learning Objective: 3

Cognitive Level: Apply

Client Needs: Physiological Integrity: Pharmacological Therapies

Integrated Process: Clinical Problem-solving Process (Nursing Process)

Reference: p. 310, Ongoing Assessment