

## Test Your Geriatric I.Q.

1. An 82 year-old female began showing symptoms of memory problems and was referred to a neurologist by her primary physician. The neurologist diagnosed Alzheimer's disease and initiated therapy with donepezil. Six weeks after therapy began, the patient made an appointment with her primary physician to ask for an "overactive bladder" medicine that she saw advertised on television. The primary physician initiated therapy with darifenacin. This patient is an example of:

A. Use of a "Beers criteria" medication  
B. Geriatric syndrome  
C. Prescribing cascade  
D. Drug toxicity
2. Which of the following drugs can lower the seizure threshold?

A. Ciprofloxacin  
B. Bupropion  
C. Clozapine  
D. All of the above
3. A 75 year-old patient has been receiving levothyroxine 50 mcg daily for 2 months. Her TSH is reported at 9.2 mU/L (normal = 0.5 – 5.0 mU/L). Which of the following is the best recommendation?

A. Increase daily dose to 75 mcg, and recheck TSH in two weeks.  
B. Increase daily dose to 75 mcg, and recheck TSH in two months.  
C. Decrease daily dose to 25 mcg, and recheck TSH in two weeks.  
D. Decrease daily dose to 25 mcg, and recheck TSH in two months.
4. A new resident of the dementia unit is wandering, increasingly confused, and bothering the staff with many questions. Which of the following is the most appropriate recommendation at this time?

A. Risperidone 1 mg daily  
B. Quetiapine 25 mg bid PRN  
C. Redirection of the resident PRN  
D. A lap belt or a geri-chair
5. A 90 year-old community-dwelling patient has long-standing hypertension. His current regimen includes enalapril, hydrochlorothiazide, atenolol and clonidine. Blood pressure is minimally controlled. Goals for this patient should include:

  1. Reducing the number of antihypertensive medications
  2. Successfully controlling hypertension
  3. Preventing adverse medication events

A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2, and 3

6. Which of the following changes is associated with the aging process?
- A. Reduction of Phase I hepatic drug metabolism      C. Increased amount of total body water  
B. Decreased percent of body fat      D. All of the above
7. A 72 year-old woman presents to the geriatrics clinic with recent onset of osteoarthritis of the left knee. She describes her pain as 3 on a 10-point scale. She denies any history of hypertension, heart failure, or gastrointestinal problems. Which of the following is the most appropriate treatment for this patient's osteoarthritis?
- A. Acetaminophen      C. Propoxyphene/acetaminophen  
B. Naproxen sodium      D. Hydrocodone/acetaminophen
8. Which of the following drug classes is most often associated with cognitive decline?
- A. Diuretics      C. Antidepressants  
B. Benzodiazepines      D. Antiarrhythmics
9. A 93 year-old patient with moderately severe Alzheimer's disease is being cared for by an adult daughter at home. A recent examination revealed that the patient's LDL cholesterol was > 170 mg/dL. Potential reasons for not initiating drug therapy according to standard practice guidelines may include:
- A. The patient and family goals and priorities may not be consistent with the assumed treatment goals in the practice guidelines.  
B. The clinical trials on which the practice guidelines were based did not include patients of this age.  
C. The patient is not likely to live long enough to benefit from drug therapy.  
D. All of the above
10. A study comparing the efficacy of two antibiotics reports a p value of 0.04. Which of the following is the most commonly accepted conclusion?
- A. Neither drug is effective based on these results.  
B. There is a statistically significant difference in efficacy between the antibiotics.  
C. The sample size was too small to achieve significant results.  
D. There is a 4% difference in efficacy between the antibiotics.

**Answers to quiz are at: [www.ccgp.org](http://www.ccgp.org)  
Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy**

## Answers to Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Quiz

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. A
7. A
8. B
9. D
10. B