Answers to Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Quiz

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

Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy
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Version 6
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. Prescribing cascade  
   C. Drug toxicity

2. Which of the following drugs can lower the seizure threshold?

   A. Bisoprolol  
   B. Benztropine  
   C. Bupropion

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 – 5.2 mU/L). Which of the following is the best recommendation?

   A. Increase daily dose to 75 mcg, and recheck TSH in eight weeks.  
   B. Maintain daily dose, and recheck TSH in four weeks.  
   C. Decrease daily dose to 25 mcg, and recheck TSH in six weeks.

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. Redirection of the resident PRN  
   B. Quetiapine 25 mg bid PRN  
   C. A lap belt or a geri-chair PRN

5. A reduced creatinine clearance accompanied by a normal serum creatinine in elderly persons is most likely due to

   A. Decreased number of nephrons  
   B. Pre-renal azotemia  
   C. Loss of muscle mass
6. Which of the following changes is associated with the aging process?

   A. Reduction of Phase I hepatic drug metabolism
   B. Increased amount of total body water
   C. Decreased percent of body fat

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. Naproxen sodium
   B. Acetaminophen
   C. Tramadol/acetaminophen

8. Which of the following drug classes is most often associated with cognitive decline?

   A. Antidepressants
   B. Benzodiazepines
   C. Antiarrhythmics

9. Appropriate reasons for NOT initiating drug therapy in elderly individuals according to standard practice guidelines may include:

   A. Medications are expensive and the family may prefer to save money to provide a larger inheritance.
   B. Few medications have been adequately tested in the elderly patient population
   C. The adverse effects of the medication are likely to outweigh the benefits from drug therapy.

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. The difference in efficacy between the antibiotics is statistically significant.
    B. The sample size was too small to achieve significant results.
    C. There is a 4% difference in efficacy between the antibiotics.