CASE IN POINT: *EVIDENCE-BASED INSIGHTS FOR EPILEPSY MANAGEMENT*

PHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENT OF EPILEPSY

CME QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is NOT a general patient care principle for the use of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) in patients with continuing seizures?

A. Adjusting the AED dose based entirely on the blood level

B. Increasing the AED dose until seizures are effectively controlled or side effects induced

C. Decreasing the dose of the AED to the maximum tolerated dose if side effects occur

D. Adding a second drug when a first drug does not provide seizure freedom at a maximum tolerated dose.

2. Long-term phenytoin use can occasionally:

A. Cause cerebellar degeneration

B. Increase risk for falling

C. Cause peripheral neuropathy

D. All of the above

3. Which single AED has demonstrated efficacy superior to all others in randomized controlled trials of partial seizures?

A. Carbamazepine

B. Levetiracetam

C. Lamotrigine

D. None of these

4. Extended-release preparations of AEDs avoid the high fluctuations that accompany peaks and troughs of the serum level in immediate-release preparations and can help prevent peak level toxicity symptoms of "drunkenness" in patients taking the drug.

A. True

B. False

5. Small, comparative trials in the elderly have shown that lamotrigine and gabapentin to be better tolerated than carbamazepine, although results from these studies have shown that all three drugs are effective.

A. True

B. False

6. Obtaining serum drug levels of AEDs should be obtained on a routine basis.

A. True

B. False

7. Which drug has cumulative side effects in which the risk for side effects substantially inceases with duration of use?

A. Lamotrigine

B. Phenytoin

C. Carbamazepine

D. Levetiracetam

E. None of the above

8. Most second-generation AEDs are well tolerated, have few drug interactions, and are nearly equally efficacious.

A. True

B. False

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