

13. Clinical Foundations— Communication, Reasoning and Ethics

Starter Quiz ·

University Medicine

Name: _____ Score: _____

1. Which is the best FIRST question about a patient's headache?
 - ☐ "Tell me about the headache."
 - ☐ "Is it worse in the morning?"
 - ☐ "Is it a throbbing pain?"
 - ☐ "Have you had migraines before?"
2. In a patient with abdominal pain, the painful area should be palpated first, because it is the most important.
 - ☐ True ☐ False
3. A broad differential for sudden breathlessness should include which of these? Select all that apply.
 - ☐ A clot in the lung
 - ☐ Chest infection
 - ☐ Anaemia
 - ☐ Heart failure

Tick every correct option.

4. A warning shot before bad news is unkind, because it adds suspense.
 - ☐ True ☐ False
5. Which are parts of the test of capacity? Select all that apply.
 - ☐ Weigh it to reach a choice
 - ☐ Agree with the doctor's advice
 - ☐ Understand the information
 - ☐ Communicate the choice
 - ☐ Retain it long enough to decide

Tick every correct option.

6. In the Swiss cheese model, harm reaches the patient when –
 - ☐ one person makes a mistake
 - ☐ the hazard is very large

- ☐ holes in every layer of defence line up
 - ☐ any single layer has a hole
7. Testing a patient who comes in with a breast lump is an example of screening.
- ☐ True ☐ False
8. "Angina" is a good way to record what the patient described in the history.
- ☐ True ☐ False
9. (Fictional) Reduced movement on the right, dull percussion and absent breath sounds at the right base. The most likely cause is –
- ☐ air around the right lung
 - ☐ an asthma attack
 - ☐ a normal chest
 - ☐ fluid around the right lung (pleural effusion)
10. A diagnosis with only a 2% probability can be crossed off the list straight away.
- ☐ True ☐ False

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Answers ·

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1. "Tell me about the headache."

An open question gets the story in the patient's own order; closed questions come after to fill gaps.

2. False

Examine it last. Pain causes guarding, which hides findings in every other region.

3. A clot in the lung; Chest infection; Anaemia; Heart failure

Heart, vessels, lungs and blood can all cause breathlessness. A broad first list costs little; a missing item can cost a life.

4. False

It gives the patient a moment to prepare, so the news itself is easier to take in.

5. Weigh it to reach a choice; Understand the information; Communicate the choice; Retain it long enough to decide

Capacity is about how the decision is made, not whether the doctor agrees with it.

6. holes in every layer of defence line up

Every layer has holes; harm passes only when they line up, so defences in depth matter.

7. False

The patient has a symptom, so this is diagnosis. Screening tests people who feel well.

8. False

Record the evidence ("tightness on climbing stairs"). A diagnosis written too early hides what was actually said.

9. fluid around the right lung (pleural effusion)

Dullness means fluid or solid tissue; absent breath sounds mean sound is not reaching the surface. Air would sound more resonant, not dull.

10. False

If it is dangerous (a must-not-miss), it stays until it has been actively excluded, however unlikely.