



ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

PART 2 EXAMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

NEUROSURGERY

FIRST PAPER - 2 Hours & 30 Minutes

MONDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER, 2001

Questions 1 and 2 must be answered and are of equal value

Question 1.

Discuss the role of imaging in the management of severe closed head injury.

Question 2.

Write notes on:-

- (a) The place of monitoring during spinal surgery.
- (b) The diagnosis and pathology of cavernous angiomas of the central nervous system.
- (c) Motor neurone disease - clinical features and differential diagnosis.
- (d) The operative complications which may follow a carpal tunnel decompression.
- (e) Post-operative analgesia in the neurosurgical patient.

Question 3 - Please follow instructions as detailed on accompanying MCQ Papers

Neurosurgery MCQ Paper
(30 questions - 30 minutes)

Surgical Principles MCQ Paper
(15 questions - 30 minutes)



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SECOND PAPER - 2 Hours

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ALL Questions must be answered and are of equal value

Question 4.

- (A) A 23 year old male dived into a shallow pool. He was immersed for approximately two minutes after which time he was lifted from the pool. He was unable to move his arms or legs and he breathed with difficulty.

Describe the appropriate first aid management, methods of transport and the investigations which should be undertaken once he has reached a major trauma centre.

- (B) He is found to have a burst fracture of C5, contusion of the spinal cord and 50% narrowing of the spinal canal. There has been no neurological improvement.

Discuss the management.

- (C) Describe the articulations of a typical cervical vertebra.

Question 5.

A 67 year old man presents with a history of increasingly severe right sided facial pain affecting the eye and the supraorbital region. The pain is precipitated by touching or washing of the face and is excruciating. There has been a partial response to carbamazepine, limited by side effects of drowsiness.

- (a) Discuss the differential diagnosis in this patient.
(b) Discuss the investigations you would pursue.
(c) Describe the treatment options in detail, including an account of the relevant anatomy of the trigeminal nerve.

Question 6.

Write notes on:-

- (a) Pituitary apoplexy.
(b) The treatment of vasospasm following aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage.
(c) The aetiology of benign intracranial hypertension.
(d) The surgical treatment of bilateral chronic subdural haematomas.
(e) The diagnosis and management of post-operative lumbar disc space infection.