

Sample Questions for Part I Examinations

Type A question from Psychiatry:

According to recent epidemiologic studies, the incidence of dementia of the Alzheimer type is decreased in individuals who have been treated with which of the following agents?

- A. Acetaminophen
- B. Hydergine
- C. Ibuprofen**
- D. Vitamin B₆ (pyridoxine)
- E. Vitamin C

Type A question from Neurology:

Which of the following primary nervous system tumors occurs more frequently in women than in men?

- A. Ependymoma
- B. Germinoma
- C. Medulloblastoma
- D. Meningioma**
- E. Choroid plexus papilloma

Vignette question from Neurology:

A nine-year-old girl has had gait difficulty and poor balance since she started walking. Her coordination has deteriorated over the past few years, but her gait difficulty appears unchanged. Early development was normal. She has had sinusitis frequently. On examination, her speech is dysarthric. She has appendicular dysmetria and truncal titubation, as well as some choreoathetosis and dystonic movements in the upper extremities. Muscle stretch reflexes are trace in the upper extremities and absent in the lower extremities. She has diffuse hypotonia with mild distal weakness. Pin and joint position sensation is intact, but vibratory sensation is reduced.

Based on the history and neurologic examination, the best description of this patient's disorder is

- A. peripheral neuropathy
- B. autonomic failure
- C. congenital myopathy
- D. neuromuscular junction disorder
- E. spinocerebellar degeneration**

A cranial MRI in this patient is most likely to show

- A. frontal lobe atrophy
- B. cerebellar atrophy**
- C. T1-weighted intensities in basal ganglia
- D. T2-weighted intensities in globi pallidi
- E. calcification of the basal ganglia

The laboratory test most likely to be abnormal in this patient is

- A. blood vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin) level
- B. blood folic acid level
- C. blood alpha fetoprotein level**
- D. blood very long chain fatty acids
- E. CSF oligoclonal bands