Quick Quiz: Meningitis and encephalitis

1. The classic triad of bacterial meningitis includes fever, neck stiffness, and
   a. paralysis.  
   b. changes in mental status.  
   c. change in gait.  

2. Inflammation of the brain parenchyma is referred to as
   a. bacterial meningitis.  
   b. myelitis.  
   c. bacterial encephalitis.  

3. A complication of increased ICP caused by bacterial meningitis is
   a. pulmonary hypertension.  
   b. myocardial infarction.  
   c. cerebral infarction.  

4. A risk factor associated with bacterial meningitis is
   a. a long leg cast.  
   b. living in a dormitory.  
   c. abdominal trauma.  

5. Besides the classic triad, what’s another sign or symptom that you may find in a patient with bacterial meningitis?  
   a. urinary frequency  
   b. headache  
   c. prolonged bleeding time  

6. Which statement about aseptic meningitis is correct?  
   a. Aggressive antibiotic therapy is required to treat aseptic meningitis, or death will occur.  
   b. Aseptic meningitis is commonly caused by enteroviruses.  
   c. In aseptic meningitis, a lot of exudate forms in the brain.  

7. Which type of central nervous system infection can be life-threatening and cause permanent neurologic damage?  
   a. viral meningitis  
   b. aseptic meningitis  
   c. viral encephalitis  

8. After you flex the patient’s leg at both the hip and knee, and then straighten his knee, if the patient reports pain and increased resistance, it’s called a positive  
   a. Kernig’s sign.  
   b. Brudzinski’s sign.  
   c. Chadwick’s sign.  

Source: Uncovering the layers of meningitis and encephalitis, Nursing made Incredibly Easy! R Lawes; July/August 2007.  
Quick Quiz is available online at http://www.nursing2007.com (click the “Educators” button).