

Quick Quiz: Epidural analgesia

- 1. Which of the following is an absolute contraindication for epidural anesthesia?**
 - a. neurologic disorder
 - b. spine deformity
 - c. coagulopathy
 - d. systemic infection
- 2. For epidural catheter insertion, position the patient**
 - a. prone.
 - b. sitting or prone.
 - c. sitting or side-lying.
 - d. sitting or standing.
- 3. Which local anesthetic is best suited as a single injection or bolus because of its rapid onset of action?**
 - a. lidocaine
 - b. bupivacaine
 - c. morphine
 - d. fentanyl
- 4. The most common adverse reactions associated with local anesthetics are tachyphylaxis and**
 - a. tachypnea.
 - b. hypotension.
 - c. tachycardia.
 - d. bronchospasm.
- 5. Tachyphylaxis to a drug can be described as**
 - a. an allergic reaction to the drug.
 - b. an acute tolerance to the drug requiring an increase in successive doses.
 - c. a sensitivity to the drug requiring lower successive doses.
 - d. a reaction to the drug causing respiratory distress.
- 6. After administration of a hydrophilic epidural opioid, late respiratory depression may be seen within**
 - a. 8 to 24 hours.
 - b. 6 to 7 hours.
 - c. 4 to 5 hours.
 - d. 2 to 3 hours.
- 7. Which assessment finding in a patient receiving epidural analgesia would cause you to alert the anesthesia provider?**
 - a. a systolic blood pressure of 92
 - b. a respiratory rate of eight breaths per minute
 - c. a sedation level of 2 on the Ramsay scale
 - d. a mild headache that remains constant
- 8. What medications should be available in order to manage oversedation and hypotension for a patient receiving epidural analgesia?**
 - a. ephedrine and flumazenil
 - b. ephedrine and heparin
 - c. naloxone and ephedrine
 - d. naloxone and labetalol

Source: Epidural analgesia in the critically ill, *Nursing2007 Critical Care*, CF Hader, September 2007. Quick Quiz is available online at <http://www.nursing2007.com> (click the "Educators" button).