Self-assessment questions

Unintentional hypothermia in the operating room

A. SELECT THE SINGLE CORRECT ANSWER

1 The major mechanism of heat loss in anaesthetized patients is:
- A Radiation
- B Convection
- C Conduction
- D Evaporation

2 Average heat loss in an anaesthetized patient is 60–70 $Kcal \cdot hr^{-1}$. What per cent of this is accounted for by the administration of dry anaesthetic gases?
- A 5%
- B 15%
- C 30%
- D 40%
- E 505%

3 An oesophageal temperature probe in the lower one quarter of the oesophagus
- A Does not predict myocardial temperature accurately
- B Will be altered by temperature of inspired gases
- C Is correctly positioned
- D Will be excessively influenced by hepatic temperature

B. FOR EACH QUESTION ONE OR MORE OF THE COMPLETIONS IS CORRECT, ANSWER AS FOLLOWS:

A If only 1, 2 and 3 are correct
B If only 1 and 3 are correct
C If only 2 and 4 are correct
D If only 4 is correct
E If all are correct

4 Postoperative consequences of hypothermia include:
1. Increased O_2 consumption
2. Urinary retention
3. Increased CO_2 production
4. Loss of respiratory drive

5 Warming blankets are not as effective in maintaining body temperature as other modalities because:
1. Only $\frac{1}{3}$ of patient's surface area is in contact with the mattress.
2. There is too small a temperature gradient between patient and mattress.
3. Peripheral vasoconstriction reduces heat transfer from mattress to patient.
4. They promote vasodilatation and thus increased heat loss.

6 Cardiac abnormalities that may be observed within a temperature range of 30–33° C are:
1. Conduction abnormalities
2. Decline in cardiac output
3. Ventricular arrhythmias
4. Peaking of ST segments

ANSWERS

1 A 2 B 3 C 4 B 5 A 6 A