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QUESTION 1

Fatty casts contain refractile oval fat bodies or free fat droplets. They are derived from renal tubular cells, and may be seen in nephrotic syndrome. Identify the urine sediment element:

- A. WBC cast
- B. Fatty cast
- C. Waxy cast
- D. Granular cast

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 2

The purpose of protective isolation is to protect:

- A. the phlebotomist from infection
- B. the phlebotomist after a needlestick
- C. the patient from family conflicts
- D. a compromised patient from infection

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 3

The term affinity refers to the strength of attraction between a single antigenic determinant and a corresponding antigen binding site. The term avidity refers to the total strength of the attraction between an antibody and a multivalent antigen. The reaction between an IgM molecule (which has 10 antigen binding sites), and a multivalent antigen is therefore much stronger than that of an IgG antibody (which has only 2 antigen binding sites).

Avidity is best described by which of the following statements:

- A. The strength with which red cells agglutinate
- B. The strength with which multivalent antigens and antibodies bind
- C. The strength with which univalent antigens and antibodies bind
- D. The speed with which an antigen-antibody reaction occurs

Correct Answer: B

QUESTION 4

Intravascular hemolysis is typically associated with increased levels of serum (plasma) LDH and bilirubin, and an increased number of reticulocytes. Serum LDH is found in higher levels during intravascular hemolysis due to fact that high levels of LDH are normally found within the red cells, but is now being spilled into the bloodstream via red cell lysis. Bilirubin is a breakdown product of hemoglobin, which has also been spilled into the bloodstream from broken red blood cells via hemolysis. Reticulocytosis is a reflection of the release of an increased number of immature red blood cells from the marrow to account for the red blood cells that are lost through hemolysis. This is a normal response. Failure to show an increased reticulocyte count with hemolytic episodes or hemorrhage would indicate an ineffective erythropoiesis (possible bone marrow function problem).

Which of these blood levels will increase during intravascular hemolysis?

- A. Serum (plasma) LDH
- B. Serum (plasma) bilirubin
- C. Reticulocytes
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

Correct Answer: D

QUESTION 5

Since hemoglobin is measured spectrophotometrically on hematology analyzers, interference from lipemia or icteric specimens can lead to decreased light detected and measured through the sample and therefore inaccurate hemoglobin results occur. On an electronic cell counter, hemoglobin determination may be falsely elevated caused by the presence of:

- A. Lipemic or icteric plasma
- B. Leukocytopenia or Leukocytosis
- C. Rouleaux or agglutinated RBCs
- D. Anemia or Polycythemia

Correct Answer: A