

# March 2013 – Neurosurgery

CPD questionnaires must be completed online via [www.cpdjournals.co.za](http://www.cpdjournals.co.za)

After submission you can check the answers and print your certificate.

True (A) or false (B):

## EMERGENCY PRESENTATION OF NEUROSURGICAL CONDITIONS

1. A normal CT of the brain in a patient presenting with sudden severe headache excludes a diagnosis of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage.
2. Progressive headaches are suggestive of ventriculoperitoneal shunt dysfunction.

## DISTINGUISHING NEUROLOGICAL FROM NON-ORGANIC CONDITIONS

3. Children under the age of 10 years commonly suffer from headaches. No special investigations are necessary.
4. Back and neck pain are among the most common problems that confront the family physician.

## RAISED INTRACRANIAL PRESSURE: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO RECOGNISE IT

5. Acute raised intracranial pressure can be defined as ICP greater than 20 - 25 mmHg for more than 5 minutes.
6. Cerebral autoregulation maintains an adequate cerebral blood flow between cerebral perfusion pressure ranges of 100 - 200 mmHg.

## MINOR HEAD TRAUMA – WHEN DOES IT BECOME A MAJOR HEADACHE?

7. A patient who has a Glasgow Coma Score of 11/15 may have mild traumatic brain injury.
8. A fall from a height <1 m seldom causes significant brain injury in an infant.

## AN APPROACH TO THE PAINFUL LIMB

9. The term radiculopathy refers to nerve root pathology.
10. C6 - C8 radiculopathies may cause pain in the whole limb, including the forearm and hand.

## INTRACRANIAL HAEMORRHAGE

11. Treatment of hypertension reduces the risk from 2.9 per 100 000 to 1.9 per 100 000.

12. Cerebellar haemorrhage may present with cerebellar signs and symptoms or with raised intracranial pressure due to hydrocephalus.

## RECOGNISING CONGENITAL ANOMALIES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

13. The simple primary prevention strategy of folate supplementation has been shown to reduce the incidence of myelomeningocele by 80%.
14. Craniosynostosis involves premature closure of the cranial sutures, either single or multiple, and may be simple or part of a syndrome.

## CERVICAL SPONDYLOTIC MYELOPATHY – NATURAL HISTORY AND ROLE OF SURGERY

15. Neck pain or stiffness and gait abnormalities are common initial complaints in CSM.
16. Sensory function (particularly dorsal column function) tends to be affected.

## NEUROSURGICAL COMPLICATIONS OF HIV

17. Among patients with AIDS, 10% will have signs of neurological dysfunction at first presentation.
18. Cerebral abscesses are a surgical emergency and warrant immediate aspiration, relieving pressure and providing a specimen for culture.

## THE TRANSITION FROM CHILDHOOD INTO ADULTHOOD – A CHALLENGE IN LIVING WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

19. Although CP is defined as a *non-progressive* disorder, it is accompanied by secondary disturbances which need life-long medical care.
20. Many of the problems faced by adults with CP could be ascribed to a lack of support during their transition from childhood into adolescence and adulthood.

We are pleased to announce that the number of CEUs per test has been increased to 5.