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Question: 1

A patient presents with a fever, headache, and myalgia after returning from a tropical region. Laboratory tests reveal thrombocytopenia and evidence of dengue virus infection. Which of the following diseases is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Malaria
- B. Zika virus infection
- C. Dengue fever
- D. Chikungunya

Answer: C

Explanation: The patient's symptoms (fever, headache, myalgia) along with thrombocytopenia and evidence of dengue virus infection point towards a diagnosis of dengue fever.

Question: 2

A patient's wound culture reveals the presence of *Staphylococcus aureus*. However, the patient does not exhibit any signs or symptoms of infection. How would you classify this finding?

- A. Colonization
- B. Infection
- C. Pseudo infection
- D. Contamination

Answer: A

Explanation: The presence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the wound culture

without signs or symptoms of infection indicates colonization. Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms on or within an individual without causing clinical illness. Infection, on the other hand, is characterized by the invasion and multiplication of microorganisms leading to clinical manifestations. Pseudo infection refers to situations where laboratory results suggest infection, but there is no clinical evidence to support it. Contamination refers to the unintended or accidental presence of microorganisms in a sample, which may lead to false-positive results.

Question: 3

A patient presents with a fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Laboratory tests reveal an elevated white blood cell count and infiltrates on a chest X-ray. Based on these clinical signs and test results, which of the following infectious diseases is most likely?

- A. Influenza
- B. Tuberculosis
- C. Pneumonia
- D. Common cold

Answer: C

Explanation: The patient's symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), along with an elevated white blood cell count and infiltrates on a chest X-ray, indicate the presence of pneumonia. Influenza primarily presents with symptoms such as fever, body aches, and respiratory symptoms but does not typically cause infiltrates on a chest X-ray. Tuberculosis may present with similar symptoms, but the diagnosis requires specific tests like acid-fast bacilli (AFB) smear or culture. The common cold typically does not cause significant respiratory distress or infiltrates on a chest X-ray.

Question: 4

Which of the following laboratory reports is most relevant in diagnosing a bacterial infection?

- A. Complete blood count (CBC)
- B. Urinalysis
- C. C-reactive protein (CRP)
- D. Stool culture

Answer: C

Explanation: When diagnosing a bacterial infection, the C-reactive protein (CRP) laboratory report is most relevant. CRP is an acute-phase reactant produced by the liver in response to inflammation, and its levels rise rapidly during bacterial infections. Elevated CRP levels indicate an ongoing inflammatory process and can help differentiate between bacterial and viral infections. Options A, B, and D may provide useful information in specific clinical scenarios, but they are less specific for bacterial infections compared to CRP.

Question: 5

A patient presents with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The most appropriate test to identify the causative agent of this respiratory infection is:

- A. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- B. Blood culture
- C. Chest X-ray
- D. Rapid antigen test

Answer: A

Explanation: When trying to identify the causative agent of a respiratory

infection, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is the most appropriate. PCR is a molecular technique used to amplify and detect specific nucleic acid sequences of pathogens. It is highly sensitive and specific, allowing for the detection of even low levels of viral or bacterial genetic material. This makes PCR an ideal choice for identifying respiratory pathogens. Options B and D are not specific for respiratory infections and may not provide accurate results. Option C, chest X-ray, can help assess the extent of lung involvement but does not directly identify the causative agent.

Question: 6

Which of the following best describes the difference between colonization and infection?

- A. Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms on the skin, while infection refers to their invasion of body tissues.
- B. Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms in the body, while infection refers to their multiplication and resulting tissue damage.
- C. Colonization refers to the presence of pathogenic microorganisms, while infection refers to the presence of non-pathogenic microorganisms.
- D. Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms in the environment, while infection refers to their transmission to humans.

Answer: B

Explanation: The key difference between colonization and infection lies in the microbial activity and its impact on the host. Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms in or on the body without causing any signs or symptoms of disease. In contrast, infection occurs when microorganisms multiply and cause tissue damage, leading to clinical manifestations of disease. Therefore, colonization refers to the mere presence of microorganisms, while infection involves their active replication and resulting harm to the host. Option A incorrectly defines colonization as the presence of microorganisms on the skin,

which is a limited interpretation. Options C and D inaccurately describe colonization and infection. Hence, the correct answer is B) Colonization refers to the presence of microorganisms in the body, while infection refers to their multiplication and resulting tissue damage.

Question: 7

Which of the following best describes the prophylactic use of antimicrobials?

- A. Treating an existing infection with the appropriate antimicrobial agent.
- B. Administering antimicrobials to prevent the occurrence of an infection.
- C. Using antimicrobials to manage the symptoms of an infection.
- D. Adjusting the antimicrobial therapy based on the sensitivity test results.

Answer: B

Explanation: Prophylactic use of antimicrobials involves administering these agents to prevent the occurrence of an infection. It is commonly employed in certain surgical procedures or in individuals at high risk of developing specific infections. Treating an existing infection (option A) would fall under therapeutic use of antimicrobials. Using antimicrobials to manage symptoms (option C) is not a primary indication for their use. Adjusting therapy based on sensitivity test results (option D) is part of the empirical or targeted therapeutic use of antimicrobials.

Question: 8

Which of the following organizations is responsible for monitoring current and emerging local and global health threats?

- A. World Health Organization (WHO)
- B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- C. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

D. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Answer: B

Explanation: The organization responsible for monitoring current and emerging local and global health threats is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC is a United States federal agency that works to protect public health and safety by controlling and preventing the spread of diseases. It conducts surveillance, research, and response activities to track and address various health threats, including infectious diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) is a global organization that focuses on international public health issues. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is primarily responsible for regulating food, drugs, and medical devices in the United States. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a medical research agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Question: 9

Which of the following practices is NOT appropriate for specimen collection?

- A. Using sterile collection containers
- B. Collecting the specimen before starting antibiotics
- C. Collecting an adequate volume of the specimen
- D. Ensuring proper labeling and documentation

Answer: B

Explanation: When collecting specimens for laboratory testing, it is important to follow appropriate practices to ensure accurate and reliable results. One of these practices is collecting the specimen before starting antibiotics. Antibiotics can interfere with the growth and identification of certain microorganisms, potentially leading to false-negative results. Therefore, collecting the specimen before initiating antibiotic therapy is essential. Options A, C, and D are all

appropriate practices for specimen collection, as they help maintain the integrity and traceability of the specimen. Option B is the incorrect answer because collecting the specimen before starting antibiotics is the recommended approach.

Question: 10

Which of the following is NOT considered a risk factor for infectious diseases?

- A. Travel to endemic areas
- B. Vaccination status
- C. Immunocompromising factors
- D. Blood type

Answer: D

Explanation: Risk factors for infectious diseases are factors that increase an individual's susceptibility to acquiring an infection. Travel to endemic areas exposes individuals to specific pathogens present in those regions. Vaccination status plays a crucial role in protecting individuals against vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunocompromising factors, such as certain medical conditions or medications, weaken the immune system and make individuals more susceptible to infections. However, blood type is not considered a risk factor for infectious diseases. Blood type is primarily relevant in blood transfusion and transplantation settings and does not directly impact an individual's risk of acquiring infectious diseases.

Question: 11

Which of the following factors is NOT a risk factor for infectious diseases?

- A. Travel history to endemic regions
- B. Complete vaccination status

- C. Immunocompromising conditions
- D. A sedentary lifestyle

Answer: B

Explanation: All the listed factors are generally considered risk factors for infectious diseases except for complete vaccination status (option B). Having a travel history to endemic regions (option A) exposes individuals to specific pathogens prevalent in those areas. Immunocompromising conditions (option C) weaken the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to infections. A sedentary lifestyle (option D) may indirectly contribute to increased risk by compromising overall health and immune function. However, complete vaccination status generally reduces the risk of acquiring vaccine-preventable diseases.

Question: 12

Which of the following terms describes the use of antibiotics based on clinical judgment and experience, without waiting for laboratory results?

- A. Prophylactic antibiotic use
- B. Empiric antibiotic use
- C. Therapeutic antibiotic use
- D. Selective antibiotic use

Answer: B

Explanation: The term that describes the use of antibiotics based on clinical judgment and experience, without waiting for laboratory results, is empiric antibiotic use. Empiric antibiotic therapy is initiated when there is a strong suspicion of an infection, but the specific causative organism has not been identified. It is based on knowledge of the most likely pathogens associated with certain clinical syndromes and local antibiotic resistance patterns.

Prophylactic antibiotic use refers to the preventive administration of antibiotics before an anticipated infection. Therapeutic antibiotic use involves the treatment of a confirmed infection. Selective antibiotic use refers to the targeted use of antibiotics based on laboratory results and susceptibility testing.

Question: 13

Which of the following laboratory reports is most relevant in diagnosing a viral infection?

- A. White blood cell count (WBC)
- B. Blood culture
- C. Viral polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- D. Stool culture

Answer: C

Explanation: When diagnosing a viral infection, the most relevant laboratory report is viral polymerase chain reaction (PCR). PCR is a sensitive and specific method for detecting the presence of viral genetic material, allowing for accurate identification of viral pathogens. It is commonly used in the diagnosis of respiratory viruses, such as influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Options A and B, white blood cell count (WBC) and blood culture, are nonspecific and may not directly indicate the presence of a viral infection. Option D, stool culture, is more relevant for diagnosing gastrointestinal infections, which are typically caused by bacterial or parasitic pathogens.

Question: 14

A patient is prescribed antibiotics before undergoing a surgical procedure as a preventive measure. This is an example of:

- A. Prophylactic antibiotic use
- B. Empiric antibiotic use
- C. Therapeutic antibiotic use
- D. Adjunctive antibiotic use

Answer: A

Explanation: When antibiotics are prescribed to prevent an infection before a surgical procedure, it is considered prophylactic antibiotic use. Prophylactic antibiotics are administered to reduce the risk of surgical site infections and other procedure-related infections. They are given prior to the procedure and are typically discontinued shortly afterward. Option B, empiric antibiotic use, refers to the initiation of antibiotic therapy based on clinical suspicion before the causative organism is identified. Option C, therapeutic antibiotic use, is the treatment of a confirmed infection to eliminate the causative pathogen. Option D, adjunctive antibiotic use, involves using antibiotics in combination with other therapeutic approaches to enhance treatment outcomes.

Question: 15

A patient's blood culture reveals the presence of *Escherichia coli*. The patient is asymptomatic and does not exhibit any signs of infection. How would you classify this finding?

- A. Colonization
- B. Infection
- C. Pseudo infection
- D. Contamination

Answer: A

Explanation: The presence of *Escherichia coli* in the blood culture without any signs or symptoms of infection indicates colonization. Colonization refers to

the presence of microorganisms on or within an individual without causing clinical illness. Infection, on the other hand, is characterized by the invasion and multiplication of microorganisms leading to clinical manifestations. Pseudo infection refers to situations where laboratory results suggest infection, but there is no clinical evidence to support it. Contamination refers to the unintended or accidental presence of microorganisms in a sample, which may lead to false-positive results.

Question: 16

Which of the following organizations is responsible for monitoring and responding to local and global health threats?

- A. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- B. World Health Organization (WHO)
- C. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- D. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Answer: B

Explanation: The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for monitoring and responding to local and global health threats. It is an international organization that works to promote public health and coordinate responses to disease outbreaks and other health emergencies worldwide. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) primarily focuses on public health within the United States. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates and approves drugs and medical devices, while the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is involved in biomedical research and funding.

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