

Quiz Page — Myasthenia Gravis & Its Treatment

1. Myasthenia gravis

- a. is considered to be an infectious disease
- b. is associated with nerve damage in the brain
- c. is a chronic disease associated with neuromuscular dysfunction
- d. is similar to cirrhosis

2. The typical age of onset for myasthenia gravis is

- a. 20-35 years
- b. Greater than 60 years
- c. childhood
- d. before age 20

3. Which of the following diseases have been associated with myasthenia gravis?

- a. rheumatoid arthritis
- b. thyroiditis
- c. systemis lupus erythematosus
- d. all of the above

4. The primary physiological substance associated with myasthenia gravis is

- a. norepinephrine
- b. acetylcholine
- c. pancreatin
- d. myasthenase

5. Although the exact etiology is not completely clear, myasthenia gravis is probably related to which of the following?

- a. an abnormal transmitter called myasthenase
- b. autoimmune mechanisms that damage the motor end plate membrane and its acetylcholine receptors
- c. impaired synthesis of norepinephrine
- d. a & c

6. Which of the following drugs should be administered with caution, or not at all, in patients with myasthenia gravis?

- a. penicillamine
- b. procainamide
- c. gentamicin
- d. all of the above

7. Which of the following is the most common symptom of myasthenia gravis

- a. muscle weakness
- b. back pain
- c. nausea and vomiting
- d. headache

8. In the early stages of myasthenia gravis, which area is the most commonly affected?

- a. GI tract
- b. leg muscles
- c. ocular muscles
- d. neck

9. Which of the following drugs is used to confirm the diagnosis of myasthenia gravis?

- a. edrophonium
- b. prednisone
- c. spironolactone
- d. myasthenian

10. Pyridostigmine

- a. is used primarily by injection
- b. has a half-life of 1.5 days
- c. may be administered in a syrup dosage form
- d. may cause constipation in about 50% of the patients

11. Neostigmine

- a. has very high bioavailability
- b. has a half-life of about an hour
- c. is only used for diagnostic purposes
- d. is used in a dose of 1 gram every 6 hours

12. Prednisone

- a. must be used in alternate day therapy to be effective
- b. is used in a set dose of 20 mg in all patients
- c. must be used with a diuretic in treating myasthenia gravis
- d. none of the above

13. Azathioprine

- a. is used in myasthenia gravis because of the autoimmune character of the disease
- b. must be used with cyclosporine in treating myasthenia gravis
- c. produces no adverse effects
- d. is successful in about 99% of the cases

14. Thymectomy

- a. should be done in all patients with myasthenia gravis
- b. is used primarily in adolescents with myasthenia gravis
- c. is beneficial and undertaken in patients under age 60, unless weakness is restricted to the ocular muscle
- d. is used only in those patients with ocular muscle weakness

15. Plasma exchange

- a. produces marked improvement in about half the patients between the first and fourth exchange
- b. often provides remission for many years
- c. produces improvement from out one to twelve weeks
- d. a and c

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