

**Subject:** 2014 ITE Gaps in Knowledge Report

# The American Board of Anesthesiology

Thank you for partnering with the ABA to prepare your residents for primary certification. Below is a list of 2014 In-Training Examination (ITE) topics describing the questions that a majority of residents answered incorrectly on the recent ITE. On behalf of the In-Training Examination Committee, I am providing this report to assist you in developing the educational program for your residents.

The question topic areas include:

- Patients receiving heparin 5000 U BID for more than 5 days may develop a decrease in their platelet count. According to ASRA guidelines, a platelet count may be indicated before removing an epidural catheter in patients who have been receiving subcutaneous heparin for this period of time.
- Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia Guidelines for the management of Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting do not recommend metoclopramide as an antiemetic for a patient who has received prophylactic ondansetron intraoperatively.
- Controlled hypotension during embolization of an intracranial arteriovenous malformation reduces blood flow through the AVM and allows for the more controlled placement of embolic material.
- The adjusted odds ratio determines the effect size in a multivariate logistic regression model.
- The sodium concentration of Lactated Ringer's solution is 130 mEq/L and, therefore, is less than that of plasma.
- Increased fibrinogen levels contribute to the hypercoagulable state found during pregnancy.
- The cervical levels on an AP radiograph of the neck can be determined by identifying the vertebra associated with the first rib, which is the first thoracic vertebra.
- During TEE evaluation of myocardial function, the mid-esophageal two-chamber view allows imaging of the region of the left ventricle perfused by the right coronary artery.
- Neuromuscular blocking agents do not effectively treat myotonic reactions in patients with myotonic dystrophy.
- Ingestion of water 2 hours preoperatively does not cause a decrease in gastric pH.
- In ventilated patients, sucralfate is superior to H2 blockers in preventing ventilator-associated pneumonia; proton pump inhibitors actually increase risk.

The question associated with each of these items was reviewed by a subgroup of the ITE Committee as part of the key validation process and the correct answer was determined to be accurate.