Module B Post Test

**Question 1:** Fluoro-guided lumbar puncture is **least** appropriate for which of the following patients?

A. A morbidly obese inpatient with no prior attempt  
B. An ICU patient with no prior attempt  
C. An obese outpatient with a failed attempt in clinic  
D. An elderly patient with prior lumbar surgery

**Answer:** B. ICU patients who would be difficult to transport and possibly unstable on the fluoro table should definitely first be attempted at the bedside [1]

**Question 2:** Which of the following would be an **absolute** contraindication to a fluoro-guided lumbar puncture?

A. Pregnancy  
B. History of back surgery  
C. INR of 3.0  
D. Allergy to lidocaine

**Answer:** C. INR should be corrected to 1.5 before performing lumbar puncture [2]

**Question 3:** Fluoro-guided lumbar puncture can be performed most safely in patients under any of the following conditions **except:**

A. Aspirin 325mg taken today  
B. Coumadin discontinued 5 days ago  
C. Beta blocker taken 2 hours ago  
D. Low-molecular weight heparin taken 6 hours ago

**Answer:** D. Low molecular weight heparin should be discontinued for 12-24 hours before any spinal procedure [3]

**Question 4:** Which of the following items in a history and physical would **most** strongly suggest the need for a head CT prior to lumbar puncture?

A. History of CNS mass lesion  
B. Fever  
C. Photophobia  
D. Elevated white blood cell count

**Answer:** A. Patients with a history of CNS mass lesion should receive a head CT before performing a lumbar puncture [4]
**Question 5:** The procedure note should contain all of the following **except:**

A. Clinical Indication  
B. Anesthesia/Sedation  
C. Fluoroscopy time  
D. Instrument count  

**Answer:** D. An instrument count is not necessary in fluoro-guided lumbar puncture [5]  

**Question 6:** On review of a patient’s history, physical exam and imaging, which of the following would be a relative contraindication to lumbar puncture?  

A. INR of 1.3  
B. Platelet count of 80,000 / mL  
C. Intrauterine pregnancy at 32 weeks  
D. History of thoracic spine instrumentation  

**Answer:** C. Pregnancy is a relative contraindication to fluoro-guided lumbar puncture [6]  

**Question 7:** How long should a patient undergo bed rest following a lumbar puncture?  

A. Bed rest for 2 hours  
B. Bed rest for 6 hours  
C. Bed rest for 24 hours  
D. No bed rest required  

**Answer:** D. Bed rest is no longer recommended for uncomplicated lumbar puncture [2, 7].  

**Question 8:** Which of the following is **not** part of routine post-lumbar puncture patient instructions?  

A. Follow-up if there is a disabling or persistent headache  
B. Follow-up if there are signs of infection at the procedure site  
C. Immediately restart any anticoagulation  
D. Resume normal diet  

**Answer:** C. Low molecular weight heparin should be avoided for 18-24 hours following lumbar puncture to reduce the risk of bleeding [6].
REFERENCES


