

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Master copy
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POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN VENEREOLOGY EXAMINATION
AUGUST 2023

PAPER I
(ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS)

Date : 21st August 2023

Time : 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Answer all five (05) questions.

Each question to be answered in a separate book.

1. A 31-year-old man presented to STD clinic with a 3 day history of right sided scrotal pain and swelling. He also complained of mild dysuria but there was no urethral discharge. He did not have fever, urinary frequency or urgency. He had vaginal and anal sexual exposures with casual females over the last 6 months and had not used condoms consistently.

1.1 State the most likely diagnosis of this patient and list most probable infective aetiologies. (20 marks)

1.2 Write three (03) other infective and two (02) non infective conditions which can cause similar symptoms. (20 Marks)

1.3 Discuss the management of this patient (60 marks)

2. The national HIV/STI strategic plan (NSP) has five components necessary to reach the country goals.

2.1. Briefly describe the main components of national strategic plan. (40 marks)

2.2. State six (06) guiding principles adhered to when making the NSP (30 marks)

2.3. Sri Lanka has adopted integrated virtual and physical services in reaching and providing STI / HIV care. Briefly describe the services provided in the existing virtual platforms (30 marks)

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3. A retrospective cohort study was conducted to determine the association between adherence to antiretroviral therapy and mortality among patients who are HIV positive. Patients who were registered in the HIV clinic in 2015 were identified and their level of adherence in the first year was assessed using clinic records. Patients who died during the follow up period of 2015 – 2022 were identified using death records.

3.1. State two (02) strengths and two (02) limitations in using a retrospective cohort design for this study. (20 marks)

Following results were obtained.

Level of adherence to ART in the first year	Number of deaths during follow up period (2015-2022)	Person-years of follow up
Good (>95%)	17	1290
Moderate (80-95%)	21	1360
Poor (<80%)	90	1300

3.2 State the likely reason for reporting person-years of follow up instead of the total number followed up. (15 marks)

3.3 State the measure of disease frequency applicable to this study, and calculate it for the three adherence levels. (25 marks)

3.4 Using the 'Good' adherence as the reference category, calculate and interpret the relevant measures of association for the relationship between adherence to ART and mortality. (40 marks)



4. Sri Lanka has pledged to end AIDS by 2030 by reducing new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths by 90% compared to 2010. In order to reach this goal, it is important to achieve 95-95-95 targets by 2025.

4.1. Briefly describe three (03) challenges in achieving the first 95 of the above targets in Sri Lanka. (30 marks)

4.2. List the three (03) main components of combination HIV prevention interventions recommended by WHO. (15 marks)

4.3. Discuss the preventive services available in Sri Lanka in relation to the WHO recommended HIV prevention interventions mentioned in 4.2. (55 marks)

5. A 42-year-old man who had repeated hospital admissions in the past presented to neurology unit complaining of progressive weakness of the body, unsteady gait with difficulty in walking, memory loss, hand tremors and incoordination of 2 months duration. Examination revealed global motor weakness with hyperreflexia. There were no focal neurological signs.

Non contrast CT brain - Cerebral atrophy, which is not age compatible. He was referred to STD clinic for screening.

Reports are as follows

TPPA – Positive +2

VDRL – Reactive (8)

HIV ELISA – Reactive

HIV confirmatory test – Positive

CD4 count - 04 cells/micro litre

Urethral GC culture – Negative

- 5.1. List five (05) differential diagnoses for this clinical presentation.

(20 marks)

- 5.2. Outline the CSF abnormalities that you would expect to see in relation to each condition mentioned in 5.1. (40 marks)

- 5.3. Discuss the possible reasons for the late HIV diagnosis (40 marks)

