Epilepsy

1. Regarding epilepsy:
   a) Most sufferers live in developing countries
   b) Its diagnosis requires the occurrence of two or more provoked seizures
   c) Electroencephalography is useful for helping to confirm an accurate diagnosis
   d) Most cases of epilepsy are misdiagnosed
   e) Its prevalence among the population of England and Wales was, in 1998, about 7%

2. Partial seizures:
   a) Are the result of excessive neuronal activation occurring but remaining localised in a specific area of the brain
   b) Are a feature of childhood absence epilepsy
   c) Can be treated effectively with phenytoin
   d) Are an indication for which pregabalin is licensed as monotherapy
   e) Can be subdivided into simple and complex depending on whether patients' consciousness is impaired

3. Loss of consciousness occurs during the following seizure types:
   a) Simple partial
   b) Generalised tonic-clonic
   c) Absence
   d) Atonic
   e) Clonic

4. The following are most likely to affect children under three years of age:
   a) West syndrome
   b) Seizures caused by metabolic disorders
   c) Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
   d) Benign childhood epilepsy
   e) Seizures caused by tumours

5. The following are licensed as monotherapy to treat tonic-clonic seizures:
   a) Carbamazepine
   b) Levetiracetam
   c) Phenytoin
   d) Pregabalin
   e) Tiagabine

6. Treatment with sodium valproate:
   a) Is first choice for primary generalised seizures
   b) Requires liver function and platelet count to be tested every six weeks
   c) Can cause weight gain
   d) Is more likely to cause liver damage in older patients
   e) Often causes Stevens-Johnson syndrome

7. Concerning carbamazepine:
   a) It increases the efficacy of combined oral contraceptives
   b) Its maintenance dose should be determined by patient response rather than drug levels
   c) It accumulates in breast milk substantially
   d) It can reduce patients' bone mineral density
   e) It displays non-linear pharmacokinetics

8. Status epilepticus:
   a) Constitutes a medical emergency if convulsive
   b) Requires parenteral thiamine to be administered in all cases
   c) Can be treated with intravenous diazepam
   d) Can be treated with rectal paraldehyde in certain circumstances
   e) Requires general anaesthesia if refractory to treatment

9. Antiepileptic drugs:
   a) Exert their action by mimicking or increasing the effects of excitatory neurotransmitters
   b) Should be used as monotherapy wherever possible
   c) Are believed to increase the risk of birth defects if taken by pregnant women
   d) Eradicate seizures within one year of treatment in 75% of cases
   e) Should only be prescribed after discussing the risks and benefits of treatment with patients or their carers

10. Regarding the use of benzodiazepines:
    a) Sedative side effects limit their usefulness for seizure prevention
    b) Oral lorazepam is useful for treating status epilepticus
    c) Clonazepam is licensed to treat tonic-clonic seizures
    d) Clobazam is licensed as an adjunctive treatment for epilepsy
    e) Lorazepam is licensed as long-term adjunctive therapy for epilepsy