

As a paramedic in a first response vehicle you are called to a 75 year old female who is experiencing malaise and abdominal pain. She responds to you appropriately and appears oriented.

1. Which of the following actions would you perform first based on the patient presentation?
 - a. Observe skin color and condition
 - b. Administer oxygen
 - c. Attach ECG electrodes
 - d. Check for airway swelling or obstruction

2. Which early finding would give you the best indication of the patient's overall level of criticality?
 - a. Mental status
 - b. Pulse oximetry
 - c. Lung sounds
 - d. Severity of abdominal pain

Your initial interaction with the patient reveals that she hasn't felt well for 3 – 4 days. The abdominal pain is vague and began last night. You observe slightly elevated pulse and respiratory rates in your primary assessment. SpO2 is 97% and her skin is warm and dry.

3. Based on this additional information, which 2 of the following 5 conditions should be in your early differential diagnosis?
 - a. Acute coronary syndrome
 - b. Hypoglycemia
 - c. Hyperglycemia
 - d. Ruptured esophageal varices
 - e. Peritonitis

The ambulance arrives and the crew obtains vital signs. P 96, R 20, BP 102/78, pupils equal/reactive.

4. Which additional information would be most helpful to narrow your differential diagnoses?

- a. Lung sounds
- b. Lead II ECG
- c. Past medical history
- d. Palpating the abdomen

5. Which of the following statements in reference to vital signs represents this patient's current status?

- a. I am concerned about shock.
- b. The vital signs are within normal limits for this patient.
- c. I suspect a cardiac issue based on these vital signs.
- d. I would begin rapid transport based on these vital signs.

The patient denies chest pain or discomfort. She reports a history of diabetes and hypertension. She takes Losartan HCTZ for hypertension and "a pill" for diabetes. Lung sounds are clear bilaterally, the patient does not have JVD or pedal edema.

6. The ECG obtained shows what rhythm? ((include image ECG with NSR 90/min with minor baseline issues))

- a. Atrial fibrillation
- b. Normal sinus rhythm
- c. Sinus rhythm with 1st degree AV block
- d. Sinus arrhythmia

7. If you were to direct your team to do one additional test, which of the following should you choose?

- a. Stroke scale
- b. Chvostek sign
- c. Skin turgor
- d. Blood glucose measurement

Additional assessment of the patient reveals a blood glucose of 391. The patient becomes slightly dizzy when moving from a sitting to a standing position.

8. Based on this additional information, which of the following findings would you expect to see?

- a. Oliguria
- b. Cerebellar ataxia
- c. Thirst
- d. Decreased serum osmolality

9. Your management of this patient should include...

- a. Normal saline bolus
- b. Glucagon
- c. Corticosteroid administration
- d. Saline lock IV and transport

10. Which of the following treatments would you expect to be initiated at the emergency department that wouldn't be instituted in the field?

- a. Renal dialysis
- b. Insulin infusion
- c. Calcium gluconate administration
- d. Initiating NPO status for immediate surgery

Answer Key

Questions	Answers
1.	A
2.	A
3.	A & C
4.	C
5.	A
6.	B
7.	D
8.	C
9.	A
10.	B