PATHOLOGY MCQs
The Pancreas

A patient with cystic fibrosis is characteristically:

A. more than 45 years of age
B. subject to recurring pulmonary infections
C. obese
D. subject to spontaneous fractures
E. diabetic

Which of the following best represents the histology of the pancreas in cystic fibrosis?

A. atrophy of acini
B. atrophy of islets
C. chronic inflammatory cell infiltrate
D. enzymatic fat necrosis
E. nodular hyperplasia

The most frequent cause of death in cystic fibrosis is

A. cirrhosis of the liver
B. diabetes mellitus
C. malabsorption syndrome
D. meconium ileus
E. pulmonary infection

Acute pancreatitis is associated with:

A. gallstones
B. excessive alcohol intake
C. both
D. neither
Chronic calcific pancreatitis is most often associated with:
A. cholelithiasis
B. mumps
C. gastric ulcer
D. chronic alcoholism
E. malnutrition

Each of the following is a pathologic feature of chronic pancreatitis except:
A. atrophy of acini
B. diffuse fibrosis
C. focal calcification
D. islet cell hyperplasia
E. squamous metaplasia of ducts

The three most common predisposing factors to pancreatitis include:
A. trauma, diabetes, alcoholism
B. gallstones, hypertension, trauma
C. diabetes, alcoholism, gallstones
D. alcoholism, trauma, gallstones

A 55-year-old man experienced severe epigastric and penetrating back pain following a cocktail party and banquet. He was brought to the hospital in shock. Which of the following laboratory tests would be most helpful in establishing the diagnosis early in the disease?
A. cholecystogram
B. upper GI series
C. serum aspartate aminotransferase
D. serum alkaline phosphatase
E. serum amylase
Typical morphologic features of chronic alcoholic pancreatitis include each of the following except

A. fibrosis of parenchyma
B. islets better preserved than acini
C. focal calcification
D. epithelioid cell granulomas

Which enzyme is most implicated in the pathogenesis of hemorrhage in acute pancreatitis?

A. alkaline phosphatase
B. amylase
C. elastase
D. phospholipase A
E. trypsin

Chronic calcific pancreatitis is most often associated with

A. chronic alcoholism
B. cystic fibrosis
C. gastric ulcer
D. malnutrition
E. mumps

A 45-year-old white female complained of intermittent preprandial episodes of lightheadedness, confusion, incoherent speech, sweating, and partial amnesia occurring three to four times a week. What was the source of her symptoms?

A. carcinoma of the pancreas
B. B-cell islet tumor of the pancreas
C. hyalinization of islet cells of the pancreas
D. carcinoma of the adrenal
E. astrocytoma of the temporal lobe of the brain
Pancreatic islet cell tumors may present with:
A. duodenal ulcers
B. hypoglycemic episodes
C. both
D. neither

Which of the following features is least characteristic of carcinoma of the head of the pancreas?
A. jaundice
B. distended gallbladder
C. decreased urine urobilinogen
D. elevated serum amylase and lipase
E. itching

The five-year survival rate for carcinoma of the pancreas is
A. 50—60%
B. 30—50%
C. 10—30%
D. 5—10%
E. under 5%

A patient presents with recurrent attacks of hypoglycemia that seem to follow fasting or strenuous exercise with relief of symptoms following glucose ingestion. The patient most likely has
A. beta-cell adenoma of pancreatic islets
B. carcinoma of the tail of the pancreas
C. diabetes insipidus
D. hemochromatosis
Which of the following histological types of pancreatic tumor has a prognosis that is markedly at variance from that of the others listed?

A. anaplastic large cell carcinoma
B. adenocarcinoma
C. ductal carcinoma
D. islet cell carcinoma

Spontaneous venous thrombosis and migratory thrombophlebitis are associated with:

A. chronic cholecystitis
B. adenocarcinoma of the pancreas
C. acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis
D. islet cell tumor

Pancreatic pseudocysts usually occur in patients who have a history of

A. cholelithiasis
B. pancreatitis
C. pancreatic carcinoma
D. diabetes mellitus
E. cystic fibrosis

Chronic calcific pancreatitis is most often associated with:

A. chronic alcoholism
B. acute alcoholism
C. chronic gastritis
D. diabetes mellitus
E. cholelithiasis
Chronic calcific pancreatitis is most often associated with:

A. cystic fibrosis  
B. mumps  
C. gastric ulcer  
**D. chronic alcoholism**  
E. malnutrition

Weight loss and abdominal discomfort is commonly found in:

A. carcinoma of the tail of the pancreas  
B. chronic pancreatitis  
**C. both**  
D. neither

The following is not a characteristic of cystic fibrosis:

A. autosomal recessive  
B. **decreased sweat chloride**  
C. abnormally thick mucus secretions throughout the body  
D. bronchiectasis  
E. pancreatic insufficiency

A 52-year-old female developed weight loss and an unrelenting back pain of 1 month duration. A mass was palpable in the left upper quadrant. She developed migratory thrombophlebitis. The prognosis in this case is best characterized as:

A. she has a normal life expectancy  
B. **she is inoperable and will live on the average 6 months or less**  
C. she will have a protracted course of one to 5 years  
D. she has a 5 year survival of 30%
The following is not a characteristic of cystic fibrosis:

A. autosomal dominant heredity
B. increased sweat chloride
C. abnormally thick mucus secretions throughout body
D. bronchiectasis
E. pancreatic insufficiency

A 50 year old male develops intractable chronic peptic ulcer disease. He is found to have an elevated serum gastrin level. The most likely diagnosis is:

A. carcinoid syndrome
B. Zollinger Ellison syndrome
C. Gardner’s syndrome
D. Klatskin syndrome
E. Peutz Jeghers syndrome