The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Part 1 examination
Haematology (Clinical Scientists): First paper
Tuesday 22 September 2015

Candidates must answer all questions

Time allowed: Three hours

1. Discuss the clinical presentation and laboratory findings in a patient with suspected acquired haemophilia A. Describe how you would further investigate a newly diagnosed case in a 76 year old female and briefly indicate how such a patient would be managed

2. A 32 year old woman blood group O negative has been given blood intended for another patient. How should this incident be managed and what steps would you take to prevent future errors?

3. How do you ensure the quality of results obtained in the laboratory and from point of care testing?

4. Describe how molecular genetics has impacted on the diagnosis of the myeloproliferative neoplasms (excluding CML)

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1. Discuss the available methods for measuring D-dimer. Critically review the indications and merits of measuring D-dimer levels.

2. Outline abnormalities resulting in red cell membrane defects and discuss the laboratory methods available to investigate these defects in patients with a haemolytic anaemia.

3. Discuss recent advances in a). understanding of the biology and b). risk stratification of multiple myeloma (plasma cell myeloma). How may these lead to a more personalised or stratified medicine approach to management of patients?

4. Write short notes on each of the following:
    a. Cold agglutinin disease
    b. Coagulation factor XI deficiency
    c. Mean platelet volume (MPV)

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5. Which laboratory tests can be used to detect the anticoagulant effect of heparin? Critically evaluate their usefulness and limitations in monitoring heparin therapy.

6. What are the key infectious risks associated with transfusion of red cells, platelets and plasma components in the UK? Discuss what measures are in place or could be taken to reduce these risks to recipients.

7. Describe iron absorption, transport and utilisation and the laboratory assessment of iron stores.

8. Write short notes on:

    a) The 8:21 translocation [t(8,21)(q22;q22)] in acute myeloid leukaemia
    b) Large granular lymphocytes
    c) Mantle cell lymphoma