1. **Chapter 33 Geriatric Emergencies**

2. **Geriatrics (1 of 2)**
   - Geriatric patients are individuals older than ________ years of age.
   - In 2000, the geriatric population was almost 35 million.
   - By 2020, the geriatric population is projected to be greater than ________ million.

3. **Geriatrics (2 of 2)**
   - Older people are major _______________________ of EMS and health care in general.
   - Effective treatment will require an increased _______________________ of geriatric care issues.

4. **Risk Factors Affecting Elderly Mortality**
   - Age greater than 75 years
   - Living _______________________
   - Recent death of significant other
   - Recent _______________________
   - Incontinence
   - _______________________
   - Unsound mind

5. **Communications (1 of 2)**
   - Show the patient _________________.
   - Position yourself at eye level in front of the patient facing the patient
     - Allows for reading of lips
   - Speak slowly and distinctly.
   - Ask only one ______________________ at a time
   - Give the patient time to answer.
   - Be _______________________.

6. **Communications (2 of 2)**
   - Older patients may need a little more ______________________ to process your question.
   - Show patience and _______________________.

7. **The GEMS Diamond (1 of 4)**
   - Created to help you remember what is _______________________ about older patients
   - Not intended to be a _______________________ for the approach to geriatric patients
   - Not intended to replace the ABCs of care
   - Serves as an acronym for the issues to be considered when assessing every older patient

8. **The GEMS Diamond (2 of 4)**
   - _______________________ patients: Normal aging, atypical presentation
   - _______________________ assessment: Safety, neglect
9 The GEMS Diamond (3 of 4)

- Geriatric patient
  - Older patients may present ________________.
- Environmental assessment
  - The environment can help give clues to the patient’s condition and the cause of the emergency.
- Medical assessment
  - Obtain a thorough medical ________________.

10 The GEMS Diamond (4 of 4)

- Social assessment
  - Older people may have ________________ of a social network.
  - They may also need assistance with activities of daily living.
  - Consider obtaining information pamphlets about some of the ________________ for older people in your area.

11 Leading Causes of Death

- Heart disease
  - ________________
- Stroke
- COPD and other respiratory illnesses
  - ________________
- Trauma

12 Common Stereotypes

- Common ________________ include mental confusion, illness, sedentary lifestyle, and immobility
- Older people can stay fit; most older people lead very ________________ lives.

13 Physiologic Changes (1 of 3)

- Skin
  - Susceptible to injury; longer ________________ time
- Senses
  - ________________ of the senses
- Respiratory system
  - Decreased ability to exchange gases

14 Physiologic Changes (2 of 3)

- Cardiovascular system
  - Increased risk of cardiovascular disease
- Renal system
  - Decline in ________________ function
- Nervous system
Physiologic Changes (3 of 3)

- Musculoskeletal system
  - Decrease in muscle ____________ and strength
- Gastrointestinal system
  - Decrease in ability of body to digest food properly
- Respiratory system
  - Very prone to respiratory illness
  - ____________ is the leading cause of death in geriatrics

Dementia (1 of 3)

- ____________ onset of progressive disorientation, shortened attention span, and loss of cognitive function
- Chronic, generally irreversible condition that causes a progressive loss of:
  - ____________ abilities
  - Psychomotor skills
  - Social skills

Dementia (2 of 3)

- Dementia is the result of many neurologic ____________, and may be caused by:
  - Alzheimer disease
  - Cerebrovascular accidents
  - ____________ factors

Dementia (3 of 3)

- On assessment, patients may:
  - Have short- and long-term memory loss
  - Have a decreased ____________ span
  - Be unable to perform daily routines
  - Show a decreased ability to ____________
  - Appear confused or angry
  - Have impaired ____________
  - Be unable to vocalize pain

Delirium (1 of 3)

- ____________ change in mental status, consciousness, or cognitive processes
- Marked by the inability to focus, think logically, and maintain attention
- Affects 15% to 50% of hospitalized people aged 70 years or older
- Acute ____________ may be present.

Delirium (2 of 3)

- This condition is generally the result of a reversible ____________ ailment, such as tumors or fever, or metabolic causes.
In the history, look for:
- Intoxication or withdrawal from alcohol
- Withdrawal from _______________________
- Certain medical conditions

21 Delirium (3 of 3)
- In the history, look for (cont’d):
  - Psychiatric disorders such as _______________________
  - Malnutrition/vitamin deficiencies
  - Environmental emergencies
- Assess and manage the patient for:
  - _______________________
  - Hypovolemia
  - _______________________

22 Geriatrics and Trauma (1 of 2)
- An older patient may have ________________________ ability to localize even simple injuries.
- Assessment must include all past medical conditions.
- ________________________ are the leading cause of trauma death and disability in the elderly.

23 Geriatrics and Trauma (2 of 2)
- Motor vehicle trauma is the ________________________ leading cause of death.
- The body’s ability to ________________________ simple injury decreases.
- Medical conditions can result in falls or MVCs.

24 Cardiovascular Emergencies
- _______________________
  - Interruption of blood flow to the brain
  - Many underlying causes
  - Heart attack
    - Classic ________________________ often not present

25 Acute Abdomen (1 of 3)
- Acute abdominal _______________________
  - Walls of the aorta weaken.
  - Treat for shock and provide prompt transport.
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
  - Blood in _______________________
  - May cause shock

26 Acute Abdomen (2 of 3)
- Bowel obstructions:
  - Vagus nerve is stimulated and produces ________________________ syndrome.
Vasovagal syndrome can cause dizziness and _________________.
Patient requires transport to rule out other conditions.

27 □ Acute Abdomen (3 of 3)
• Older patients with abdominal pain have higher chances of hospitalization, ________________ , and death than younger patients.

28 □ Altered Mental Status
• ________________
  • Recent onset
  • Usually associated with underlying cause
• ________________
  • Develops slowly over a period of years

29 □ Psychiatric Emergencies (1 of 2)
• ________________ is common among older adults.
• Physical pain, psychological distress, and loss of loved ones can lead to depression.
• ________________ are more likely to suffer depression.

30 □ Psychiatric Emergencies (2 of 2)
• Older men have the highest ________________ rate.
• Older patients use much more lethal means.
• EMT-Bs should consider all suicidal thoughts or actions to be ________________ .

31 □ Advance Directives
• Do not resuscitate (DNR) orders give you permission not to attempt to resuscitate.
• DNR orders may only be valid in the health care facility.
• You should know state and local protocols regarding advance directives.
• In Texas, only the DSHS ________________ DNR can be honored by EMS
• When in doubt, initiate ________________ .

32 □ Elder Abuse (1 of 2)
• This problem is largely ________________ from society.
• Definitions of abuse and neglect among older people vary.
• Victims are often ________________ to report an incident.
• Signs of abuse are often overlooked.

33 □ Elder Abuse (2 of 2)
• Nursing home residents who receive no ________________ have a higher likelihood of abuse and neglect.

34 □ Assessment of Elder Abuse (1 of 2)
• ________________ visits to the emergency room
• A history of being “accident prone”
• Soft-tissue injuries
• Vague _______________________ of injuries
• Psychosomatic complaints

35 □ Assessment of Elder Abuse (2 of 2)
• Chronic _______________________
• Self-destructive behavior
• Eating and sleeping disorders
• Depression or a lack of energy
• Substance and/or ______________________ abuse

36 □ Signs of Physical Abuse
• Signs of abuse may be obvious or _______________________.
• Obvious signs include bruises, bites, and burns.
• Look for injuries to the _______________________.
• Consider injuries to the genitals or rectum with no reported trauma as evidence of abuse.

37 □ Assessing the Geriatric Patient

38 □ Scene Size Up (1 of 2)
• Be keenly aware of the _______________________ and why you were called.
• Scene safety should include looking for unsafe conditions.
• Look for _______________________.
  • Steep stairs, missing handrails, poor lighting, other fall hazards

39 □ Scene Size Up (2 of 2)
• The general condition of the _______________________ will provide clues.
  • Cleanliness, heat, lighting, food
• Look for signs of activities of _______________________ living.
  • Personal hygiene, getting dressed, food preparation
• Scene size-up continues throughout call.
• Does someone else live there who could help answer questions?

40 □ Primary Assessment
• Never assume altered mental status is _______________________.
• May have to rely on family or caregiver to establish patient’s baseline LOC
• Assess the patient’s chief _______________________ and ABCs.

41 □ History Taking (1 of 2)
• ______________________ is usually the key in helping to assess a patient’s problem.
• Patience and good communication skills are essential.
• Treat the patient with respect.
• _______________________ the patient and speak in a normal tone.

42 □ History Taking (2 of 2)
• Obtain a list of medications and ______________________
• Often have multiple medication
• Ask about _______________________ recently started or stopped.
• Determine if the patient has taken other medications.
• Meds may alter S/S
• Sensation of _______________________ may be diminished

43 Medication Use
• The average geriatric patient takes _______________________ or more medications.

44 Polypharmacy
• Polypharmacy refers to the use of _______________________ prescriptions by a single patient.
• Older people account for a large portion of overall medication usage.
• Many medications can have interactions or _______________________ actions when taken together.

45 Secondary Assessment: Physical Exam (1 of 2)
• Very beneficial in assessment of geriatric patients
• Be aware that elderly are more prone to _______________________ during assessment.
• Remove only necessary clothing during the examination.
• Look for bruising or other signs of _______________________ 

46 Secondary Assessment: Physical Exam (2 of 2)
• Many times, geriatric patients do not realize that they have _______________________ or other symptoms
• Can help to clarify vague complaints
• ALWAYS check _______________________ sounds
• Check vital signs

47 Reassessment (1 of 2)
• Repeat the primary assessment.
  • A geriatric patient has a higher likelihood of _______________________ after trauma.
• Interventions
  • Broken bones are common and should be splinted.
  • Do not force a patient with joint flexion or curved _______________________ into a “normal” position.

48 Reassessment (2 of 2)
• Normal _______________________ may affect physical findings.
  • Increased BP, respiratory changes
• Chronic changes can mask acute problems.
• Reassessments will help determine changes.
  • Geriatric patients have decreased ability to _______________________ .

49 Common Complaints
• _______________________
• Chest pain
• Altered mental status
• Dizziness or weakness

50 Trauma Assessment (1 of 2)
• Common mechanisms of injury:
  • _________________________
  • Motor vehicle trauma
  • Pedestrian accidents
  • _________________________

51 Trauma Assessment (2 of 2)
• Priorities in rapid scan are the same.
• Confounding factors:
  • Medical conditions or _________________________ injuries
  • _________________________ or other dental implants
  • Decreased ability to compensate
  • _________________________ associated with aging

52 Injuries to the Spine
• Classified as stable or unstable
  • _________________________ is a contributing factor to spinal injuries.
• Prompt spinal immobilization can reduce further damage and pain.
  • _________________________ void spaces.

53 Head Injuries
• Assume a significant injury in older patients who have signs and symptoms of head injury.
• Suspect _________________________ injury in patients who take blood thinners and who suffer head injury.
• Maintain oxygen delivery to _________________________.

54 Injuries to Pelvis and Hip Fractures
• Often present as hip or _________________________ pain
• Pelvic ring disruption can lead to hemorrhage or internal organ injury.
• Hip fractures:
  • Common debilitating injury
  • Maintain leg in _________________________ position to prevent further injury.

55 Hip Fracture
• _________________________ rolls maintain the leg in a static position so that further injury does not occur.

56 Medical Emergencies
• Determining chief complaint is challenging.
  • _________________________ conditions and complaints
  • Ask what bothers them most today.
• Sensation of pain may be diminished.
• Fear of _______________________.
• Conditions may present _______________________.

57 Cardiovascular Emergencies
• Classic ______________________ are often not present.
• Many have “____________________” heart attacks.
• Common signs and symptoms
  • Difficulty breathing
  • ______________________
  • Arm pain
  • Back pain

58 Dyspnea
• Related to many causes
  • ______________________
  • COPD
  • Congestive heart failure
  • ______________________
• Provide oxygen for all patients experiencing dyspnea.

59 Syncope
• Can occur for many reasons in geriatric patients
  • Standing up too fast
  • ______________________ to have bowel movement
  • Myocardial infarction
  • Diabetic shock
  • ______________________

60 Altered Mental Status
• ______________________ onset is not normal in any patient.
• Most sudden changes are caused by a reversible condition.
• ______________________ is a common cause of AMS in the geriatric patient
• Evaluate and treat for hypoxia or hypoglycemia if present.

61 Acute Abdomen
• Complaints of abdominal pain in older patients usually indicate a serious event.
• Nervous system response to pain is lessened.
• Consider gastrointestinal problems or abdominal aortic aneurysm.

62 Septicemia
• Results from presence of microorganisms or their ______________________ products in bloodstream
• Patients may present with:
  • Hot, flushed appearance
  • Tachycardia and tachypnea
Chills, cough

63 Response to Nursing and Skilled Care Facilities
- Important information to know from staff:
  - What is the patient’s chief complaint _______________________ ?
  - What initial problem caused the patient to be admitted to the facility?
  - Ask the _______________________ about the patient’s overall condition and normal LOC.
  - Obtain any type of transfer _______________________ .

64 Dying Patients
- More patients are choosing to die at home rather than in a hospital.
- Dying patients receive _______________________ care.
- Be understanding, sensitive, and compassionate.
- Determine if the family wishes for the patient to go to the hospital or stay in the home.
- Caution with legal issues; follow _______________________ 

65 Key Points (1 of 2)
- Don’t _______________________ , most geriatrics are healthy.
- Aggressive history taking.
- May or may not have classic C/C.
- Medication history is very important. Take medications to ER.
- Treat patient with _______________________ .

66 Key Points (2 of 2)
- Be aware of special needs
  - Eye _______________________ 
  - Hearing aide
  - Walker
- See that patient’s husband or wife is cared for
- See that patient’s _______________________ are secured