

CODE: CI 8

Question: Major Illness

Type: Elective

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Opening Scenario:

A 37 year old patient lady with SLE booked for hysterectomy for excessive vaginal bleeding.

Major points of additional information to be provided to the candidate, e.g., hx, px, labs, x-ray, consults:

Patient has had SLE for the last 25 years and has been on and off steroids. The lab results shows haemoglobin of 90, platelets count 85,000 and creatinin 150. She does complain of tiredness and shortness of breath. CXR - small R-sided pleural effusion, mild cardiography ECB - non spec ST-TA's

Major decision points (major decision points or options which must be recognized by the candidate)

Candidate should know about SLE and multi-system involvement. Chronic steroid use and its implications eg. adrenal suppression, decreased immunity and wound healing et. Type of anaesthesia for hysterectomy - GA vs. regional pros and cons.

Any follow-up information required to lead to the end of the question

Critical features to be included i.e. the *must* have to pass the question or to be considered *completely unacceptable*

Should be aware of connective disorders including SLE. This could have features of other connective tissue disorders like rheumatoid arthritis. Thorough preop assessment is essential or mandatory. Should be aware of effects of haemostatic mechanisms and concerns for major conduction blockade in the presence of thrombocytopenia.

Ref: RCEXAMS2.NOV.94
USED:
Last revision: 95/10

Percent of effusion

*Libman - Saks pericarditis indicated.
Raynaud's*

Lupus anticoagulant →

PPTT.

DVT.

Functional asplenia.