

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN  
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY  
Faculty of Health Sciences

MMed Emergency Medicine  
Final examination

MPhil Emergency Medicine  
Written examination

20 March 2008

**Clinical long answer paper**

0900 - 1200

**NO CALCULATORS AND/OR  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT/AID WILL BE ALLOWED**

This paper consists of **FOUR** long answer questions. All questions are to be answered. Each question is worth 100 marks.

Answer each question in a separate answer book.

1.

A patient presents to you with ataxia.

- a. Define ataxia, and give a differential diagnosis if this condition had:
  - i. Started acutely/ suddenly
  - ii. Progressively got worse over weeks to months(20)
- b. What questions would you ask on history to try to make a diagnosis?  
(10)
- c. Discuss in detail your clinical examination of this patient, including what signs you would examine for and how you would perform these clinical tests.  
(20)
- d. What investigations are necessary, and how would they help you in reaching a diagnosis?  
(10)
- e. Discuss the management of *any three* of the conditions discussed in your differential diagnosis above  
(40)

2.

The police arrive at your emergency centre with a 28 year old male taken into custody at Cape Town International Airport on drug smuggling suspicions. Airport officials noticed the suspect quickly swallowing a large number of packets.

The police officers want the suspect's "*stomach to be pumped*" to obtain evidence. The suspect refuses the procedure. The patient is noted to be alert but combative, and has a BP of  $197/100$  and heart rate of 140.

Discuss your management of this case.

(100)

3.

Describe the emergency centre approach to a patient with an acute abdomen who presents hypovolaemic, in septic shock, and with respiratory compromise. Include in your answer specific reference to the following:

- Initial management and ventilator strategy
- Goal oriented resuscitation of septic shock
- Differential diagnosis of the underlying cause of the pathology
- Antibiotics of choice for empiric therapy in the context of abdominal pathology in terms of likely flora and adequate cover.

(100)

4.

List the differential diagnosis of headache to be considered in the emergency centre, and describe your general approach to make a diagnosis.

(100)