

### QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of alcohol abuse is brought to the emergency department with a severe headache and vomiting. The patient is found to have a blood alcohol concentration of 0.25 g/dL. The patient's vital signs are stable, and there are no other physical findings. The patient is diagnosed with alcohol withdrawal. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?

A. Lorazepam 2 mg IV q1h  
B. Valproic acid 500 mg PO qd  
C. Phenytoin 100 mg IV qd  
D. Carbamazepine 200 mg PO bid  
E. Gabapentin 300 mg PO bid

Option	Correct Answer	Explanation
A	Correct	Lorazepam is the most appropriate initial management for alcohol withdrawal. It is a benzodiazepine that effectively treats the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including tremor, tachycardia, and hypertension. The other options are not indicated for the initial management of alcohol withdrawal.
B	Incorrect	Valproic acid is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy and bipolar disorder. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
C	Incorrect	Phenytoin is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
D	Incorrect	Carbamazepine is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
E	Incorrect	Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy and neuropathic pain. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.

ANSWER: A

DISCUSSION: The patient has a long history of alcohol abuse and is presenting with symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including a severe headache and vomiting. The patient's blood alcohol concentration is 0.25 g/dL, which is significantly elevated. The patient's vital signs are stable, and there are no other physical findings. The patient is diagnosed with alcohol withdrawal. The most appropriate initial management is lorazepam 2 mg IV q1h. Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine that effectively treats the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including tremor, tachycardia, and hypertension. The other options are not indicated for the initial management of alcohol withdrawal.

### QUESTION

2. A 65-year-old male patient with a long history of alcohol abuse is brought to the emergency department with a severe headache and vomiting. The patient is found to have a blood alcohol concentration of 0.25 g/dL. The patient's vital signs are stable, and there are no other physical findings. The patient is diagnosed with alcohol withdrawal. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?

A. Lorazepam 2 mg IV q1h  
B. Valproic acid 500 mg PO qd  
C. Phenytoin 100 mg IV qd  
D. Carbamazepine 200 mg PO bid  
E. Gabapentin 300 mg PO bid

Option	Correct Answer	Explanation
A	Correct	Lorazepam is the most appropriate initial management for alcohol withdrawal. It is a benzodiazepine that effectively treats the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including tremor, tachycardia, and hypertension. The other options are not indicated for the initial management of alcohol withdrawal.
B	Incorrect	Valproic acid is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy and bipolar disorder. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
C	Incorrect	Phenytoin is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
D	Incorrect	Carbamazepine is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
E	Incorrect	Gabapentin is an anticonvulsant used for the treatment of epilepsy and neuropathic pain. It is not indicated for the treatment of alcohol withdrawal.

ANSWER: A

DISCUSSION: The patient has a long history of alcohol abuse and is presenting with symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including a severe headache and vomiting. The patient's blood alcohol concentration is 0.25 g/dL, which is significantly elevated. The patient's vital signs are stable, and there are no other physical findings. The patient is diagnosed with alcohol withdrawal. The most appropriate initial management is lorazepam 2 mg IV q1h. Lorazepam is a benzodiazepine that effectively treats the symptoms of alcohol withdrawal, including tremor, tachycardia, and hypertension. The other options are not indicated for the initial management of alcohol withdrawal.