

Self-assessment questions: The acute porphyrias

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- 1 Which of the following are potential precipitants of an attack of acute porphyria?
 - (a) Cimetidine
 - (b) Hormone replacement therapy
 - (c) Pregnancy
 - (d) Progesterone-only pill
 - (e) Menopause
- 2 Which of the following are characteristic symptoms of an acute attack of porphyria?
 - (a) Bipolar depression
 - (b) Motor neuropathy
 - (c) Sensory neuropathy
 - (d) Leg pain
 - (e) Hyponatraemia
- 3 Which of the following statements about haem are true?
 - a) Haem is essential for every cell in the body
 - b) Dietary haem intake from red meat reduces the rate of hepatic haem synthesis
 - c) Most haem is synthesised in the erythron
 - d) Haem deficiency explains most of the symptoms of acute porphyria
 - e) The rate of hepatic haem synthesis is increased in acute intermittent porphyria
- 4 Which of the following are useful in treating variegate porphyria?
 - a) Intravenous 5 % dextrose
 - b) Gonadotrophin-releasing hormone agonists
 - c) Phenytoin
 - d) Liver transplantation
 - e) Opaque sun screen

Answers to these self-assessment questions can be found on page s92.