Severe ischemia and hypoxia from respiratory arrest usually produce dilated, fixed pupils. Ischemia and hypoxia do not cause pinpoint (opiates), sluggish (cranial nerve III), or small, reactive (diencephalic dysfunction) pupils.

**STUDY TIP:** In the first pass through the exam, answer what you know and skip what you do not know. Answering the questions you are sure of increases your confidence and saves time. This is buying you time to devote to the questions with which you have more difficulty.

Which client is at greatest risk for aspiration?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct</th>
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| 1 | A client with bulbar palsy  
| 2 | A client with hemiparesis  
| 3 | A client with tardive dyskinesia  
| 4 | A client with Tourette syndrome  

A client with bulbar palsy is at risk for aspiration because of paresis or paralysis that affects the muscles used in chewing and swallowing. Hemiparesis results in paresis/weakness of the extremities on one side of the body. Tardive dyskinesia and Tourette syndrome are disorders of excessive movements without a risk of aspiration.

Which class of vertebral injury does the nurse expect in the patient with spinal cord trauma whose computed tomography (CT) scan shows that the patient’s vertebral body has shattered into several fragments?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Correct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 | Dislocation  
| 2 | Burst fracture  
| 3 | Simple fracture  
| 4 | Wedge fracture  

Because the CT scan shows that the patient’s vertebral body is shattered into fragments, the nurse expects that the patient has burst fracture or comminuted fracture. If the CT scan shows changes in the position of the vertebral column, then the nurse would expect that the patient has dislocation. If the CT scan shows a single break, then the nurse would expect a simple fracture. If the CT scan shows that the patient’s vertebral body was compressed anteriorly, then the nurse would expect that the patient has compressed fracture or wedge fracture.

**Test-Taking Tip:** Identify option components as correct or incorrect. This may help you identify a wrong answer.

A patient with a vertebral fracture reports a pounding headache, blurred vision, nasal congestion, and sweating above the T3 level. Upon assessing the patient, the nurse finds that the patient has paroxysmal hypertension and bradycardia. Which nursing intervention will help to prevent a cerebrovascular accident in the patient?

| 1 | Administering intravenous fluids  
| 2 | Providing potassium supplements  