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COVER

"Le Gourmet," painted in 1901 by Picasso (1881-1973) during his "Blue Period," demonstrates the natural appetite of the small child, who appears well nourished and even is eating standing up. Eating problems in children are not inherent in their stage of development but are their response to adverse environments. The blue color, however, suggests a threat to this healthy state. Child health professionals must balance this innate healthy aspect of childhood against the environmental threats to their well-being and be advocates for the healthy development of children. (This painting is from the National Gallery of Art's Chester Dale collection and is reproduced with permission.)

ANSWER KEY


PIR QUIZ

1. Antipyretic therapy is most likely to be effective in the treatment of fever caused by:
   A. Collagen-vascular disease.
   B. Ectodermal dysplasia.
   C. Heat stroke.
   D. Hyperthyroidism.
   E. Salicylism.

2. Among the following, the least acceptable argument against lowering fever with antipyretics is that:
   A. Adverse effects of treatment outweigh benefits.
   B. Fever may be protective to the host.
   C. Interleukin-1 is suppressed.
   D. Lowering can obscure diagnostic signs.
   E. Most fever is short-lived.

3. Among the following, the organism that most commonly causes occult bacteremia in small children is:
   A. Group A Streptococcus.
   B. Haemophilus influenzae type b.
   C. Neisseria meningitidis.
   D. Salmonella sp.
   E. Strepococcus pneumoniae.

4. The incidence of complications from occult bacteremia is highest in children infected with:
   A. Group A Streptococcus.
   B. Haemophilus influenzae type b.
   C. Neisseria meningitidis.
   D. Salmonella sp.
   E. Strepococcus pneumoniae.

5. A true statement regarding fever of unknown origin is:
   A. An infectious etiology is unlikely.
   B. A specific diagnosis ultimately can be made in all cases.
   C. Rectal examination should be reserved for patients who have bowel symptoms.
   D. Serial physical examinations can be helpful to diagnosis.
   E. The majority of patients ultimately are found to have a rare disease.

6. Among the following causes of fever of unknown origin, which might be best diagnosed by admission to the hospital?
   A. Drug reaction.
   B. Factitious fever.
   C. Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.
   D. Leptospirosis.
   E. Sarcoptiasis.
ABSTRACT

The Blended Family


Coping with Transitions. Hetherington EM, Clingempeel WG. Monogr Soc Res Child Dev. 1992; Serial No. 227, 57(2–3)

The blended family refers to the family reorganization associated with divorce and subsequent remarriage. It is estimated that 50% of couples married after 1970 eventually will divorce. Almost 50% of all children will experience the divorce of their parents and spend an average of 5 years in a single-parent household; however, 72% of women and 80% of men will go on to remarry. It is projected that 40% of married adults will become members of stepfamilies before their youngest child reaches 18 years of age.

According to Hetherington and Clingempeel, the developmental stage of a child will affect his or her response to the blended family. In general, children age 10 and above have the cognitive ability, social skills, and personal and extrafamilial resources for coping with their parents’ marital transitions. Often, preadolescents and adolescents cope by disassociating themselves from the family and becoming involved in outside groups and activities (ie, become attached to a friend’s or neighbor’s family). Due to fewer options, the adjustment for younger children depends more on the ambiance and experiences within their family. In fact, younger children may become attached to and benefit from the introduction of a competent stepparent.

Early adolescence appears to be the time of greatest difficulty in adjusting to remarriage because of the developmental tasks encountered at this age. These include exploring