

Competency Assessment for Exergen TA Thermometer

Print Name _____ Date _____
 Unit _____

Choose the best answer and write the letter of that answer on the line in front of the number.

1. Temporal artery thermometers measure the patients'
 - a. Ambient air temperature.
 - b. Core body temperature.
 - c. Skin temperature.
 - d. Oral temperature.

2. Core temperature will show a spike in patient temperature:
 - a. One to two hours later that rectal temperature.
 - b. At the same time as rectal temperature.
 - c. One to two hours sooner than rectal temperature.

3. The temporal artery thermometer measures the temperature of the temporal and carotid arteries, reflecting the core temperature at the heart. In the case of the patient who has been febrile, and the fever is now breaking, the temporal artery scanner may read:
 - a. Lower than a rectal thermometer because the core temperature will reflect the change more rapidly than the rectum.
 - b. Higher than a rectal thermometer because the core temperature takes longer than the rectum to reflect the change.
 - c. The same because it does not matter how or where temperature is measured.
 - d. Lower, because environmental factors will always affect core temperature.

4. The temporal artery thermometer may give inaccurate reading if:
 1. The lens is dirty.
 2. The side of the forehead measured has been resting on the pillow.
 3. The patient has just finished drinking iced water.
 - a. 1 only
 - b. All of the above
 - c. 1 and 3
 - d. 1 and 2
 - e. None of the above

5. Core temperature measurement reflects changes in body temperature _____ oral or rectal temperature measurement.
 - a. Slower than
 - b. The same as
 - c. More quickly than

6. It is important to clean the lens in the center of the probe with a cotton-tipped stick applicator (Q-Tip) dampened with an alcohol prep pad.
 1. Every two weeks
 2. After each use
 3. When the patient is discharged
 4. If lens is not shiny and mirror-like
 - a. 1 only
 - b. All of the above
 - c. 1 and 3
 - d. 1 and 4
 - e. None of the above

SKILL PERFORMANCE	YES	NO
1. Explains procedure to patient.		
2. Places probe flush on center of forehead, depresses button, and holds button depressed the entire time.		
3. Slides probe in a straight line across the forehead to the hairline.		
4. Lifts probe from forehead and touches half way down behind the ear on the mastoid process (or slides behind ear if hair is very short).		
5. Slides probe down to the little soft depression on the neck behind the earlobe.		
6. Releases button and reads temperature.		
7. Records temperature on bedside graphic sheet.		
8. Verbalizes intervention for any abnormal results.		
9. Cleans probe of temporal artery scanner between patients.		
10. Demonstrates cleaning the lens of the temporal artery thermometer.		

Instructor _____ Date _____
 Employee _____ Date _____

Key to answers:

1. b. Core Body Temperature
2. c. One to two hours sooner than rectal temperature
3. a. Lower than a rectal thermometer because the core temperature will reflect the change more rapidly than the rectum
4. d. 1 and 2
5. c. More quickly than
6. d. 1 and 4