

Syllabus	PA_IS_08
Topic	Autistic spectrum disorder

A 5 year old boy with autistic spectrum disorder is listed for dental extractions as a day case

a)

What constitutes autistic spectrum disorder? (1 mark)

.....

b)

List 4 key clinical features a person with autistic spectrum disorder may display (4 marks)

1.

2.

3.

4.

c)

List 5 important issues to consider when providing anaesthesia for dental extractions in any child? (5 marks)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

d)

List 4 specific problems of providing anaesthesia for children with autistic spectrum disorder? (4 marks)

1.
2.
3.
4.

e)

List 3 specific things you can do to try and improve the outcome / tackle the problems highlighted in section d) above (3 marks)

1.
2.
3.

e)

The surgeon asks for a throat pack to be inserted for the case as it might be a prolonged case with extensive dental work. List 3 precautions that should be taken to ensure throat packs are not retained after surgery (3 marks)

1.
2.
3.

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	Answer	Mark	Guidance
a)	<u>Lifelong</u> developmental disability characterised by <u>difficulties in interaction with other people</u>	1 mark	Need words reflecting both underlined parts to get 1 mark
b)	<p>Triad of impairments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in social communication/emotional engagement • Difficulty in social interaction • Difficulty with imagination and distinguishing fiction from reality <p>Child may also display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repetitive interest or movements • hyper or hypo activity to sensory stimulation • abnormal fixation on certain issues • dislike/inflexible to change in routine 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	
c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared airway case - access for both surgeon and anaesthetist - need good communication • Risk of airway obstruction • Risk of airway dislodging • Risk of soiled airway - may require throat pack • Need to protect eyes • Risk of postoperative bleeding 	1 mark for each (Max. 5 marks)	Accept any other appropriate/relevant points
d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear of entering hospital environment • Fear of losing control • Fear of taking pre-med • Fear of needles • Fear of facemasks / gas induction • Difficulties on-waking up from anaesthetic 	1 mark for each (Max. 4 marks)	
e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put first on the list • Parent/carer present on induction and wake up • Consider pre medication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Midazolam po 0.5 mg/kg (Max 20 mg) 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clonidine 1-4 mcg/kg ● Play therapist ● Difficulty in communication – use alternative communication aids, use parents, music, lighting both pre and post op ● Anti-emetics & fluids to reduce PONV ● Remove cannula as soon as possible – have this bandaged in the interim ● Nerve blocks/local anaesthetic to reduce pain issues 	1 mark for each (Max. 3 marks)	
f)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Label/mark the patient on their head or on another visible part of their body with a sticker or marker ● Label the artificial airway (e.g. tracheal tube or LMA) ● Attach the pack securely to the artificial airway and leave part of the pack protruding ● Clearly state throat pack insertion and removal to the rest of the theatre team as part of the surgical check in and check out ● Record the throat pack on the swab count board 	1 mark for each (Max. 3 marks)	

References

- 1) Short JA, Calder A. Anaesthesia for children with special needs, including autistic spectrum disorder. CEACCP 13(4)107-112 <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjaceaccp/mks065>
- 2) National Safety Patient Agency. Reducing the risk of retained throat packs after surgery. NPSA Safety Alert (2009) <https://www.medis-medical.com/content-files/NPSA-Report-Reducing-Risk-Retained-Throat-Packs-Surgery.pdf>