Medical language

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
ADVANCED | C1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each advanced term with its definition.

1 differential ____	**a** a shortened term for a list of possible diagnoses being considered
2 comorbid ____	**b** occurring alongside another condition in the same patient
3 idiosyncratic reaction ____	**c** an unusual, unpredictable individual response to a drug, unrelated to its normal effect
4 titration ____	**d** the gradual adjustment of a drug dose to find the optimal level
5 polypharmacy ____	**e** the concurrent use of multiple medications by a single patient
6 iatrogenesis ____	**f** harm caused inadvertently by medical intervention
7 clinical correlation ____	**g** the process of relating laboratory or imaging findings to a patient's actual clinical presentation
8 asymptomatic carrier ____	**h** a person who carries and can transmit an infectious agent without showing symptoms
9 pharmacokinetics ____	**i** the study of how a drug moves through and is processed by the body
10 nomenclature ____	**j** a formal system of naming used within a scientific or medical field

2 Choose the most precise term for each context.

1 A shortened term for possible diagnoses being considered is a differential / a confirmed diagnosis.

2 Occurring alongside another condition is comorbid / entirely unrelated.

3 An unusual, unpredictable individual drug response is an idiosyncratic reaction / an expected side effect.

4 Gradually adjusting a drug dose is titration / a fixed standard dose.

5 Using multiple medications concurrently is polypharmacy / monotherapy.

6 Harm caused inadvertently by medical intervention is iatrogenesis / natural disease progression.

7 Relating findings to actual clinical presentation is clinical correlation / an isolated result.

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8 A person carrying an infectious agent without symptoms is an asymptomatic carrier / an actively ill patient.

3 Match the verbs with the noun phrases to form academic collocations.

1 narrow ____	**a** a differential
2 manage ____	**b** polypharmacy
3 titrate ____	**c** a drug dosage
4 minimise ____	**d** iatrogenic risk
5 correlate ____	**e** findings with presentation
6 attribute ____	**f** a reaction to a specific cause
7 screen for ____	**g** asymptomatic carriage
8 standardise ____	**h** medical nomenclature

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4 Complete the analysis with terms from the box.

asymptomatic carrier | clinical correlation | comorbid | differential | iatrogenesis | idiosyncratic reaction | nomenclature | pharmacokinetics | polypharmacy | titration

Clinicians facing an ambiguous presentation typically narrow a broad 1 _____ through targeted testing, ruling out unlikely explanations systematically. Patients managing 2 _____ conditions alongside their primary diagnosis often require careful attention to 3 _____, since taking multiple medications simultaneously increases the risk of harmful interactions. Careful 4 _____, gradually adjusting dosage to find an optimal therapeutic level, helps minimise both under-treatment and adverse effects. Occasionally, a patient experiences a rare 5 _____, an unpredictable response unrelated to the drug's normal mechanism, complicating treatment planning considerably. Understanding 6 _____, how a drug is absorbed, distributed and eliminated, helps clinicians anticipate such variation across individual patients. Vigilance against 7 _____ remains essential throughout, since treatment itself can inadvertently cause harm. Laboratory results require careful 8 _____ with the patient's actual presentation rather than interpretation in isolation. Public health surveillance for a disease's 9 _____ population helps estimate true prevalence beyond visibly symptomatic cases, while standardised medical 10 _____ ensures consistent communication across international clinical practice.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The growing challenge of polypharmacy

As populations age and comorbidity becomes increasingly common, polypharmacy, the concurrent use of multiple medications by a single patient, has emerged as a significant clinical concern. Each additional medication introduces potential drug interactions that grow combinatorially rather than additively, making adverse reactions considerably harder to predict once a patient's regimen extends beyond a handful of drugs. Careful titration of individual medications helps mitigate risk, but genuinely comprehensive risk assessment requires systematic review of the entire medication regimen rather than evaluating each prescription in isolation. Some researchers advocate periodic deprescribing reviews, deliberately reassessing whether every medication remains genuinely necessary, as a structural response to the iatrogenic risk polypharmacy can introduce.

1 What has emerged as a significant clinical concern, according to the text? _____

2 What does each additional medication introduce? _____

3 How do these interactions grow, rather than additively? _____

4 What does careful titration of individual medications help do? _____

5 What does genuinely comprehensive risk assessment require? _____

6 What do some researchers advocate as a structural response? _____

6 Replace the words in bold with a precise term or collocation.

1 The doctors gradually adjusted the dosage to find the optimal level. _____

2 The patient had an unusual, unpredictable reaction to the drug. _____

3 The harm was caused inadvertently by the medical treatment itself. _____

4 The person carried the infection without showing any symptoms. _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a 160-190 word critical commentary on how polypharmacy in ageing populations creates diagnostic and treatment challenges, distinguishing observation from inference.

[ ] Use at least twelve target expressions. [ ] Include four academic collocations. [ ] Maintain a precise, balanced register.

ANSWER KEY

1 Advanced terms

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h 9 i 10 j

2 Precise terms

1 a differential 2 comorbid 3 an idiosyncratic reaction 4 titration 5 polypharmacy 6 iatrogenesis 7 clinical correlation 8 an asymptomatic carrier

3 Academic collocations

1 a narrow a differential 2 b manage polypharmacy 3 c titrate a drug dosage 4 d minimise iatrogenic risk
5 e correlate findings with presentation 6 f attribute a reaction to a specific cause 7 g screen for asymptomatic carriage 8 h standardise medical nomenclature

4 Analysis

1 differential 2 comorbid 3 polypharmacy 4 titration 5 idiosyncratic reaction
6 pharmacokinetics 7 iatrogenesis 8 clinical correlation 9 asymptomatic carrier 10 nomenclature

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Polypharmacy.
2 Potential drug interactions.
3 Combinatorially rather than additively.
4 Helps mitigate risk.
5 Systematic review of the entire medication regimen rather than evaluating each prescription in isolation.
6 Periodic deprescribing reviews.

6 Precise terms and collocations

1 titration 2 an idiosyncratic reaction 3 iatrogenesis 4 an asymptomatic carrier

Over to you

Answers will vary. Look for conceptual precision, evidence-aware reasoning and balanced evaluation.