

Semiotics of the Human Body and Clinical Signs

Biosemiotics And Clinical Semiology · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. In clinical semiology, what term refers to a subjective sensation perceived by a patient that serves as a sign of an underlying pathological condition?

- A) Symptom**
- B) Sign
- C) Syndrome
- D) Pathognomonic

2. Which sign, characterized by the appearance of a blue-grey pigmentation around the umbilicus, is a semiotic indicator of acute hemorrhagic pancreatitis?

- A) Cullen's sign**
- B) Grey Turner's sign
- C) Chvostek's sign
- D) Trousseau's sign

3. In the context of biosemiotics, what term is used for a biological signal that induces a specific physiological response in the host organism?

- A) Semiochemical**
- B) Neurotransmitter
- C) Hormone
- D) Endorphin

4. What is the medical definition of a 'pathognomonic' sign?

- A) A sign specifically characteristic or diagnostic of a particular disease**
- B) A recurring pattern of physiological instability
- C) A generic symptom shared by multiple viral infections
- D) A sensory reaction to medicinal intervention

5. Which ocular semiotic indicator, presenting as a golden-brown ring in the periphery of the cornea, signals Wilson's disease?

- A) Kayser-Fleischer ring**
- B) Arcus senilis
- C) Brushfield spots
- D) Lisch nodules

6. In neurology, what does the 'Babinski sign' indicate when observed in an adult patient?

A) Upper motor neuron lesion

- B) Lower motor neuron injury
- C) Peripheral neuropathy
- D) Cerebellar ataxia

7. Which semiotic indicator in the skin, identified by a lack of turgor, is a clinical sign of severe dehydration?

A) Tent sign

- B) Livedo reticularis
- C) Erythema migrans
- D) Purpura

8. In the study of clinical semiotics, what is an 'indexical sign' in relation to fever?

A) An elevated body temperature

- B) A patient's report of shivering
- C) The patient's facial expression
- D) The medical chart color

9. What specific physiological process is signified by 'clubbing' of the fingernails?

A) Chronic hypoxia

- B) Localized inflammation
- C) Bacterial infection
- D) Metabolic acidosis

10. Which clinical sign involves the involuntary twitching of the facial muscles following percussion of the facial nerve, indicating hypocalcemia?

A) Chvostek sign

- B) Trousseau sign of latent tetany
- C) Homans sign
- D) Kernig's sign

11. In semiotic terms, what is the 'signified' aspect of the 'Kernig sign' in cases of meningitis?

A) Meningeal irritation

- B) Pulmonary congestion
- C) Cerebral ischemia
- D) Spinal nerve compression

12. The presence of 'Koplik spots' in the buccal mucosa is a classic semiotic indicator for which viral disease?

- A) Measles**
- B) Chickenpox
- C) Scarlet fever
- D) Mumps

13. What is the semiotic classification of pain in clinical diagnostics?

- A) A symptom**
- B) A sign
- C) An etiology
- D) A prognosis

14. In the semiotics of dermatology, what does 'Livedo reticularis' represent?

- A) A net-like pattern of skin discoloration due to vascular flow interference**
- B) A fungal infection of the epidermis
- C) A response to excessive ultraviolet radiation
- D) A buildup of keratin in the hair follicles

15. Which semiotic marker, defined as a rhythmic oscillation of the eyes, is a classic sign of vestibular or neurological dysfunction?

- A) Nystagmus**
- B) Strabismus
- C) Ptosis
- D) Miosis

16. In medical semiotics, what is the 'referent' of a biopsy report?

- A) The specific tissue sample analyzed**
- B) The pathologist's interpretation
- C) The patient's health history
- D) The diagnostic software used

17. The 'Slapping gait' is a diagnostic sign often associated with which specific condition?

- A) Tabes dorsalis (sensory ataxia)**
- B) Parkinson's disease
- C) Hemiplegia
- D) Muscular dystrophy

18. What does the 'Blumberg sign' (rebound tenderness) signify during an abdominal examination?

A) Peritoneal irritation

- B) Gastric ulceration
- C) Hepatic enlargement
- D) Splenic rupture

19. In the context of the cardiovascular system, what does a 'thrill' signify upon palpation of the precordium?

A) Turbulent blood flow (murmur)

- B) Myocardial infarction
- C) Aortic valve stenosis
- D) Normal valve closure

20. The 'Herald patch' is a semiotic hallmark typically appearing at the onset of which skin condition?

A) Pityriasis rosea

- B) Psoriasis
- C) Atopic dermatitis
- D) Tinea corporis