

Medical Aspects of Military History

Military History · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. During the American Civil War, what was the most common cause of death for soldiers, accounting for more fatalities than combat wounds?

- A) Scurvy
- B) Dysentery and diarrhea**
- C) Yellow fever
- D) Frostbite

2. What condition, known in the 19th century as 'soldier's heart', was identified during the American Civil War and is now recognized as a precursor to diagnosing post-traumatic stress or anxiety disorders?

- A) Dercum's disease
- B) Da Costa's syndrome**
- C) Bell's palsy
- D) Addison's disease

3. In World War I, 'trench foot' was a significant medical concern caused by prolonged exposure to which environmental condition?

- A) Damp, unsanitary, and cold conditions**
- B) Excessive heat and humidity
- C) High altitude and thin air
- D) Exposure to mustard gas residue

4. Which nutrient deficiency was historically the most significant medical challenge for naval crews during the Age of Sail, often prevented by the consumption of citrus fruits?

- A) Vitamin D
- B) Vitamin C**
- C) Iron
- D) Calcium

5. During World War II, what specific medical innovation became widely distributed to frontline medics, significantly increasing the survival rate of soldiers with severe hemorrhage?

- A) Synthetic insulin
- B) Blood plasma transfusion**
- C) Penicillin injections
- D) Morphine pumps

6. What historical term was used during World War I to describe a psychological condition caused by exposure to intense artillery bombardment and blast waves?

- A) Shell shock**
- B) Trench fever
- C) Battle fatigue
- D) Combat hysteria

7. Before the discovery of antibiotics, what was the primary surgical method used to prevent the spread of gangrene in battlefield wounded soldiers?

- A) Cauterization
- B) Amputation**
- C) Bloodletting
- D) Trephination

8. The 'Great Influenza' pandemic of 1918, which decimated military ranks globally, is scientifically identified as being caused by which strain of virus?

- A) H1N1**
- B) H5N1
- C) H3N2
- D) SARS-CoV-2

9. What type of injury was the 'Balkan Eye' (or 'War Eye') commonly associated with during the conflicts in the early 20th century, resulting from small high-velocity fragments?

- A) Retinal detachment
- B) Corneal scarring
- C) Ocular perforation**
- D) Color blindness

10. During the Napoleonic Wars, what was the purpose of the 'flying ambulances' (ambulances volantes) introduced by Dominique-Jean Larrey?

- A) To transport high-ranking officers
- B) To provide rapid evacuation and field surgery**
- C) To distribute rations to the wounded
- D) To carry supplies for medical training

11. Which medication, first mass-produced during World War II, was famously called the 'miracle drug' for its ability to treat infections in wounds?

- A) Aspirin
- B) Penicillin**
- C) Quinine
- D) Morphine

12. What condition, characterized by extreme physical exhaustion and cognitive impairment, was officially termed 'combat exhaustion' by the U.S. military during World War II?

A) Malaria

B) Battle fatigue

C) Beriberi

D) Scurvy