Case 11

Question 1 (written by Joe Edwards)

A patient presents to their GP with moderate dyspeptic symptoms that have recently worsened. The patient is a smoker, experiences significant stress at work and takes naproxen for chronic mechanical back pain. The GP suspects an ulcer but is keen to exclude the possibility of malignancy. The GP asks the patient further questions to differentiate between two types of GI ulcer.

a) Suggest which two types of gastrointestinal ulcer the GP is trying to differentiate between, and describe how the GP might differentiate between these through further history taking.

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b) Describe two complications of gastrointestinal ulcer.

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In order to investigate the possibility of malignancy, the GP is keen for the patient to have on OGD. The patient is unaware of what an OGD involves and the GP provides an explanation of the procedure.

c) Describe 4 techniques the GP could use to provide the best quality explanation to the patient.

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d) Use the information in this question to identify the most significant risk factor for gastric malignancy in this patient.

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Question 2 (written by Joe Edwards)

A consultant on a gastroenterology ward has been approved funding to conduct a clinical trial investigating the effect of prophylactic low-dose PPIs on the risk of mortality from developing gastric cancer in high risk patients.

a) Suggest the most appropriate type of trial the consultant could use, and justify your decision.

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b) Describe three of the ethical requirements that the consultant must meet.

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The consultant plans to measure the effectiveness of his prophylactic treatment by measuring CA 72-4, a reliable biomarker of gastric cancer.

    c) State the type of endpoint that this represents, and describe the problems with this type of endpoint.

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One of the trial subjects develops leukaemia and stops taking the prophylactic PPI medication mid-way through the trial. The consultant decides to exclude this patient's results as he is worried they will skew the data for the whole trial.

    d) State the type of bias that this represents.

[1]

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