

The numbers and emergencies that recur on the OCN. Skim before test day, then prove it with practice.

Exam facts

- 165 questions (145 scored), 3 hours
- Biggest area: Symptom Management & Supportive Care (25%)

Neutropenia & infection

- $ANC = WBC \times (\% \text{ segs} + \% \text{ bands})$
- Severe neutropenia: $ANC < 500$; greatest risk at the **nadir**, **~7–14 days** post-chemo
- **Febrile neutropenia is an emergency** — cultures + antibiotics promptly

Oncologic emergencies to recognize fast

- **Tumor lysis syndrome** — $\uparrow K$, $\uparrow$ phosphate, $\uparrow$ uric acid, $\downarrow$ calcium
- **Spinal cord compression** — new/worsening back pain with neuro changes
- **SVC syndrome** — facial/arm swelling, dyspnea
- **Hypercalcemia of malignancy** — treat with hydration and bisphosphonates

Chemo safety

- **Vesicant extravasation** — stop the infusion, leave the device to aspirate, give antidote if indicated
- Follow safe-handling precautions for hazardous drugs

Sources & references

The exam facts on this page are drawn from official certifying-body materials, reviewed 2026-06-18 by the DrCertifications exam-prep team (10+ years in exam preparation and publishing).

- [ONCC — Oncology Certified Nurse \(OCN\)](#)