**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 36, The Digestive System**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objective(s) |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Dental problems such as loose or missing teeth. * Missing teeth may be replaced with dentures that must be properly fitted to be effective. * Dental problems may produce toothache and sores in the mouth or on the tongue. * Inefficient chewing. * Problems swallowing poorly chewed food. * Decreased saliva. * Decreased efficiency of digestion due to decreased stomach acid and enzymes. * Failure to take in fluids because of possible incontinence.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Provide a relaxed, social atmosphere. * Cut their food into small, easy-to-chew pieces. * Determine their need for assistance with feeding. * Alternate food and liquids to assist with swallowing. * Ask them for their food preferences. * Report to the nurse any problems you observe or complaints Mary might make. * To help keep the feces soft, encourage plenty of fluids. * Answer their call light immediately to prevent them from holding feces longer than necessary. * Report and record bowel movements and consistency of stool. * Make sure they have privacy when eliminating. * Promote any type of exercise that the person is able to do. | 3 |
| 2a. Students’ response should include the following:   * Heartburn is the most common symptom of a hiatal hernia.   2b. Students’ response should include the following:   * Report any new symptoms the patient might have to the nurse immediately. | 4 |