**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 38, The Reproductive System**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Mary is postmenopausal. * Their reproductive organs have shrunk to prepuberty size. * They may experience vaginal wall dryness as well as thinning of the vaginal tissues. * Due to aging changes in the nervous system, they may take longer to be aroused, so vaginal secretions are not present.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Tell the nurse about Mary’s concern. * Tell Mary to speak to their health care provider about their problem. * Tell Mary they might try using a lubricant. | 4, 5 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * It is a sexually transmitted infection. * It is caused by a virus. * It causes painful blisters to form around the vaginal opening and perineum in women, or external urinary opening in men. * There is no cure. * It is a disease that lasts a lifetime, with blisters returning many times.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Always use a barrier such as a condom. * If your partner has signs or symptoms of herpes, do not have sexual relations until your health care provider has been consulted for treatment. * The surest way to avoid getting herpes is to abstain from sexual relations or have intercourse with someone who is unaffected. | 12 |
| 3a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Difficulties with starting the flow of urine. * Frequent urination. * Incomplete emptying of the bladder.   3b. Students’ response should include the following:   * It is a blood test that identifies the antigen used to diagnose prostate cancer. | 9, 10, 11 |