

Class Preparation Ischemic Stroke

Directions: Read the scenario and complete the table below

Scenario: A 70-year-old patient diagnosed with an Ischemic Stroke was admitted 1 day ago. His medical history includes hypertension, osteoarthritis, and type 2 diabetes mellitus. He has right-sided paralysis, garbled speech, and a weak cough reflex. This morning, he is very restless. Vital signs: Blood pressure 160/80, pulse 110, respirations 24. Oxygen saturation is 90%.

Use an X to indicate which actions listed in the left column would be implemented to prevent complications in this patient. Write the rationale for each action (why or why not would this be implemented?).

Actions	Implemented	Rationale
Administer subcutaneous heparin.	x	To prevent any blood clots due to immobility from right side paralysis
Implement seizure precautions.	x	Can occur after a stroke. Restlessness can also be a sign of neurological changes
Apply oxygen via cannula at 2 L/min.	x	O2 is below 92%. Oxygen therapy will help maintain adequate oxygenation and perfusion to the brain.
Consult speech therapy.	x	For possible dysphagia due to the garbled speech and weak cough. This prevents aspiration.
Position the patient on his right side for no longer than 2 hours.		Lying on the affected side for too long increases the risk for pressure injuries
Perform passive ROM exercises.	x	To prevent joint stiffness and muscle atrophy. Also promotes circulation.
Elevate head of bed 45 degrees.	x	Helps to reduce the risk for aspiration due to the weak cough reflex.

