Class Preparation
Ischemic Stroke

X – yes

— no

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.	—	Increases the risk of brain bleeding that soon after a stroke
Implement seizure precautions.	X	Seizures are most likely o occur 24 hours after stroke, due to interrupted electrical activity
Apply oxygen via cannula at 2 L/min.	X	O2 Sats are below 92 with a high RR, O2 at 2L should be adequate support
Consult speech therapy.	X	helps to bring back to baseline, important post-op
Position the patient on his right side for no longer than 2 hours.	—	makes it difficult to breathe, swallow, increases ICP, increasing risk of brain bleeding
Perform passive ROM exercises.	X	Helps to improve strength, which is important to do ASAP after stroke
Elevate head of bed 45 degrees.	X	helps to oxygenate lungs better, improves O2 + RR