



## Go To Clinical Case

*While caring for this client, be sure to review the concept maps in chapters 3 and 4.*

### Case 2: Pituitary Tumor with Removal

*Related Concepts: Adaptation: Coping & Stress, Homeostasis: Fluid & Electrolytes*

*Threaded Topics: Complimentary Therapy, Pre/Postoperative Care, Advanced Directives, Medication Error-near Miss, HIPAA*

Prisha Patel is a 24-year-old school teacher. She graduated from the university last year and began her dream teaching job in an inner-city, low-income 3rd-grade classroom. She's healthy, maintaining a strict vegetarian diet and runs two miles each day. Her roommate and best friend, Rhonda is a registered nurse, working at a large medical center. Prisha begins to experience headaches. She assumes that they are related to the stress of her job, but when she finds them occurring more frequently, she seeks the advice of her roommate.



1. Prisha describes her headaches as recurring daily with constant throbbing pain. The oral ibuprofen 400 mg that she's been taking every six-hours makes little difference in the discomfort. The headaches often keep her awake at night. What should Prisha's roommate, Rhonda recommend?
  1. Increasing the dose of ibuprofen to 600 mg every six hours.
  2. Alternating the ibuprofen with acetaminophen.
  3. Implement stress-relieving meditation each day.
  4. To make an appointment with a health care provider.
2. Prisha visits her naturalist practitioner describing the symptoms. She is diagnosed with migraine headaches from stress and hormonal changes and prescribed herbal supplements and acupuncture. What should be included in Prisha's teaching?
  1. She should not take ibuprofen while taking herbal supplements.
  2. The herbal treatments should be completed before acupuncture is started.
  3. The acupuncture treatments will require multiple sessions for best effect.
  4. The herbal supplements can cause nausea and vomiting.

After a week of the naturopathic treatments, Prisha begins to have visual disturbances. Her roommate convinces her to see a practitioner of Western medicine who orders a computed tomography (CT) scan of her brain.



3. The provider records Prisha's symptoms in the electronic record. Match the medical term on the left with the appropriate symptom on the right.

<input type="checkbox"/> Polyuria	A. Weight loss
<input type="checkbox"/> Hemianopia	B. Double vision
<input type="checkbox"/> Diplopia	C. No menstrual periods for 3 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Hypoglycemia	D. Frequent urination
<input type="checkbox"/> Amenorrhea	E. Loss of peripheral vision
<input type="checkbox"/> Diaphoresis	F. Low blood glucose
<input type="checkbox"/> Cachexia	G. Low number of red blood cells
<input type="checkbox"/> Anemia	H. Excess sweating

Prisha learns that she has a pituitary adenoma tumor, a benign growth on her pituitary gland. Because of her visual disturbances and headaches, it is recommended that she have her pituitary gland removed surgically using the transsphenoidal approach.

4. Leaving the office that day, the nurse notices that Prisha is visibly upset and crying while scheduling the surgery. What should the nurse say?
1. "You'll be all right; this surgery is done all of the time."
  2. "Would it be better if you called us back later to schedule the surgery?"
  3. "Is there someone I can call to be with you?"
  4. "I'm sure you are afraid and overwhelmed; what questions can I answer for you?"
5. Prisha's parents call Rhonda from India later that day and ask "What is going on with Prisha? She seems distracted each time we speak with her. Is everything all right?" How should Rhonda respond? Select all that apply.
1. "She'll be all right, but she needs surgery."
  2. "I wouldn't worry, Prisha is a strong person."
  3. "She got some bad news today, you should call her."
  4. "Nothing, why do you ask?"
  5. "If you are concerned, you should ask her."



**NurseThink**  
HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Name: Prisha Patel  
Health Care Provider: Norman Ellicott, MD.  
Code Status: Full code

Age: 24 years  
Allergies: PCN

Nursing
Flow Sheets
Provider
Labs & Diagnostics
MAR
Collaborative Care
Other

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PRESCRIPTIONS**

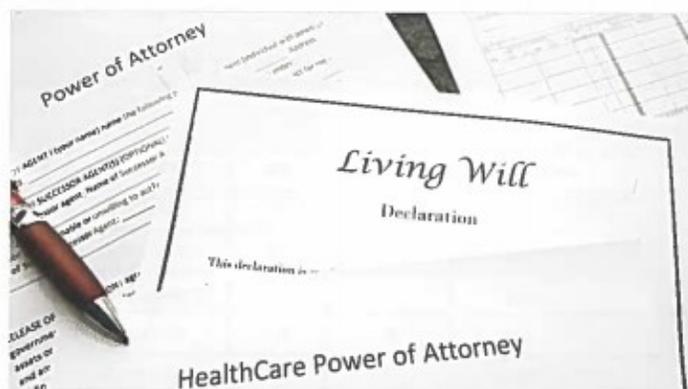
Apr. 10 1010	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NPO after 2200 the evening before surgery.</li> <li>2. Stat CBC &amp; electrolytes before surgery on April 16.</li> <li>3. Chlorohexidine shower at home the morning of surgery.</li> <li>4. Report to the pre-op registration desk at NurseThink® Healthcare at 0600 on April 16.</li> <li>5. Sign consent for transsphenoidal hypophysectomy upon admission.</li> </ol>
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6. Prisha does not understand the information in the preoperative instructions. Mark if the explanation by the nurse is correct or incorrect. In the last column, correct the inaccurate statements made by the nurse.



	Correct	Incorrect	Corrected Statement
"You can brush your teeth the morning of surgery but don't swallow any water."			
"You can have a glass of water at midnight, on April 15, but nothing after that."			
"You need to get blood work done today."			
"You will use a special antibacterial solution and scrub your body in the shower before you come for surgery."			
"The surgical approach will be through your nose."			

7. It is the night before surgery. Prisha is anxious and cannot sleep. What should Rhonda suggest?
1. Taking one of Rhonda's sleeping pills.
  2. Watching some television or reading a book to relax.
  3. Drinking a glass of hot tea.
  4. Taking a warm bath.
8. As Prisha is completing paperwork the morning of surgery, she is asked if she has advanced directives. She does not but asks if Rhonda can be her health care proxy since her family is outside of the country. How should the nurse respond?
1. "No, the health care proxy must be family."
  2. "You don't need to designate anyone if you choose."
  3. "Yes, you can choose whomever you feel comfortable assigning."
  4. "It's best to ask Rhonda first to confirm that she is willing and able."



9. Prisha's surgery is successful. She comes to the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU) with a dressing under her nose and one on the right thigh. A new nurse in the PACU asks her mentor why there is a dressing on the thigh. How should the nurse respond?
1. "That is the graft site that was used to cover the holes made in the skull."
  2. "They take a muscle flap and use it to fill the location where the tumor was removed."
  3. "There is probably a burn on her thigh from the surgical equipment."
  4. "I'm not sure; maybe she came in with it."

10. The post-anesthesia care unit calls the nurse to give the report. Prisha is stable. They'd like to know which room she will be going to. The charge nurse evaluates the room choices on the unit. Which is the best bed placement for Prisha? Check the best option.



<p>Room 545 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: Open</p> <p>Bed 2: 44-year-old female with asthma and every 2 hours SVN's</p>	<p>Room 546 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: 74-year-old man with a fracture, in traction.</p> <p>Bed 2: 76-year-old man with a head injury from a fall.</p>	<p>Room 547 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: 37-year-old female on neutropenic precautions.</p> <p>Bed 2: Open</p>
<p>Room 548 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: 53-year-old woman with pneumonia - lots of visitors</p> <p>Bed 2: Open</p>	<p>Room 549 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: 36-year-old woman post-appendectomy.</p> <p>Bed 2: Open</p>	<p>Room 550 - 4 Bed Ward <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: 29-year-old female with newly diagnosed diabetes.</p> <p>Bed 2: 48-year-old female to be discharged this afternoon.</p>
<p>Room 551 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: Open</p> <p>Bed 2: Open</p>	<p>Room 552 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Bed 1: Open</p> <p>Bed 2: 17-year-old girl newly diagnosed with Crohn's disease.</p>	<p>Bed 3: Open</p> <p>Bed 4: 70-year-old female with an MRSA infection.</p>

11. NurseThink® Prioritization Power!



Prisha is transferred to the medical-surgical care unit. Determine the **Top 3 Priority** assessments for the nurse to make in the first few hours after surgery.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing Flow Sheets **Provider** Labs & Diagnostics MAR Collaborative Care Other

**Nurse Think** HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Name: Prisha Patel Age: 24 years  
 Health Care Provider: Norman Ellicott, MD. Allergies: PCN  
 Code Status: Full code

**HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PRESCRIPTIONS**

Apr. 16  
1200

1. Admission to the medical-surgical care unit.
2. Routine post-surgical vital signs. Report temp > 101°F (38.3°C).
3. Dressing change as needed. Report increased bleeding or drainage on mustache dressing.
4. Dressing change as needed to thigh dressing. Report signs of infection.
5. Clear liquid diet, no straw.
6. Prevent sneezing, coughing, or bending.
7. Electrolytes ASAP upon arrival to the unit.
8. Indwelling catheter with urometer. Strict intake/output.
9. Out of bed with assistance only.

12. Explain the rationale for each of these prescriptions and why they are a specific concern for Prisha.

1. Report temperature. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Report increased drainage on mustache dressing. \_\_\_\_\_
3. No straw. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Prevent sneezing, coughing, or bending. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Electrolytes ASAP. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Strict intake/output. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Out of bed with assistance only. \_\_\_\_\_

Nursing Flow Sheets Provider Labs & Diagnostics MAR **Collaborative Care** Other

**Nurse Think** HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Name: Prisha Patel Age: 24 years  
 Health Care Provider: Norman Ellicott, MD. Allergies: PCN  
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**EMS RECORD**

Time	BP (MAP)	HR	RR	Temp	Urine Output
1250	122/67 (85)	98	16	97.1°F (36.2°C)	125 mL
1330	117/64 (82)	88	16		75 mL
1400	114/68 (83)	100	18		300 mL
1422	105/65 (78)	105	18		700 mL
1445	101/63 (76)	109	16	99.8°F (37.7°C)	650 mL

**13. THIN Thinking Time!**

As the nurse, reflect on the cues and data about Prisha's postoperative situation and apply **THIN Thinking** to prioritizing care.

T - \_\_\_\_\_  
H - \_\_\_\_\_  
I - \_\_\_\_\_  
N - \_\_\_\_\_

**T** - Top 3  
**H** - Help Quick  
**I** - Identify Risk to Safety  
**N** - Nursing Process

Scan to access the  
10-Minute-Mentor →  
on THIN Thinking.



[NurseThink.com/THINThinking](http://NurseThink.com/THINThinking)

- 14. The nurse recognizes that a call needs to be placed to the provider about Prisha's changing condition. What additional data should the nurse gather before making the phone call?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 15. A call is placed to the health care provider. Complete the communication form.**

S - \_\_\_\_\_  
B - \_\_\_\_\_  
A - \_\_\_\_\_  
R - \_\_\_\_\_

**Clinical Hint:**  
S - Situation  
B - Background  
A - Assessment  
R - Recommendation

- 16. The nurse receives a prescription to administer desmopressin 2 mcg intravenous, NOW and in 12 hours. The nurse obtains the vial below from the medication dispensing machine. How much medication should the nurse administer?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

- 17. The nurse recognizes that the pharmacy has incorrectly stocked the medication dispensing machine. How should the nurse handle the situation? Select all that apply.**

1. Notify the charge nurse.
2. Rearrange the medication to its proper location.
3. Place a sign on the machine to alert others of the error.
4. Complete a near-miss report.
5. Contact the pharmacy.
6. Document the situation in the client's record.



18. After delivering the correct dose of desmopressin, how will the nurse know if the medicine has been effective?

1. The temperature will decrease.
2. The blood pressure will rise.
3. The heart rate will decrease.
4. The urine output will decrease.

19. The nurse is providing discharge instructions to Prisha. Complete the chart, identifying if the instructions are appropriate or not appropriate for her surgical procedure.



	Appropriate	Not-Appropriate
Do not bend or lift objects.		
Only drink liquids until your follow-up appointment.		
Follow up with the surgeon in 2 weeks.		
Monitor your weight daily.		
You may develop diarrhea from the medication.		
Report if you have a continuous drip of sinus drainage.		
You may have more pain from your graft site.		
Avoid driving for 6 months.		
You have an increased risk of seizures.		

20. Given that Prisha has had surgery of her pituitary gland, which symptoms would be vital for her to report to her endocrinologist? Select all that apply.

1. Weight change.
2. Dizziness upon rising.
3. Sleeplessness.
4. Constipation.
5. Moodiness and irritability.

