

Reflection

Megan Carter

Today I had a patient who had an emergent right frontal craniotomy and a right posterior fossa craniotomy to decompress the brainstem. They put an External Ventricular Drain to help drain and relieve his elevated intracranial pressure. Originally, he had come in because he had an ischemic stroke, so they were just observing him, but within a day his wife told the day shift nurse that he was not acting like himself, but that nurse just blew it off. Later the night nurse came, and the wife told her the same thing that he was not acting like himself, so she assessed him and agreed that there was a change in his status. So, she acted on it and got an CT done and it had shown a hemorrhagic stroke, so he had to go to surgery immediately. With all that being said, I just wanted to talk about this because we as nurses need to make sure we are listening to our patient's family members because they know them more than we do. Even if it is not anything, we should still follow up with it just in case. If the day shift nurse would have taken what the wife said seriously, he probably would not have to have emergency craniotomy. In the future I want to make sure I listen to my patient's family member because they do know what is normal and what is not. Next, I want to address my nurse. So, when we were getting report she heard our patient was on an EVD, and immediately she starts asking questions about it because she had never had a patient with one before. She did not stop there though; she went and got the charge nurse and asked her to come explain how it works and what different settings mean and just overall how to operate it. When she was asking these questions, it made me feel like she really wanted to know how it works as well as how to keep her patient safe and prevent any error on her behalf. She had already been there for two years and yet she still was not familiar with everything. That just made me feel a little more confident about becoming a nurse just because you are always learning. You do not get a job as a nurse and already know everything; it is always room to grow and learn and I love that. Sometimes I think how I am going to be able to take care a patient all by myself, but this situation just reassured me

that I am more than capable if I just always ask questions and be open to learn every day. In nursing school, you always hear that you learn more once you become a nurse, but it was good seeing it in action, with a nurse who has already been a nurse a while. I will apply what I learned today by making sure I listen to my patient's family member as well as asking them questions about my patient. Like, "How do he or she normally act, or is that normal for this patient?". Also, by always asking for help if I do not know or understand something.