

Step 1 Description

During clinicals this week I was able to witness the process of inserting a NG tube for the first time. The patient was an older lady in her 90's. She spoke minimal english and always had a family member with her in the room. The nurse we were following offered to let us do it if the family allowed, but because we had never seen one being inserted before we agreed that it was best if we just observed this time. During the process, the patient seemed very uncomfortable. The nurse tried multiple times in both nostrils but was unable to get the tube down. The left nostril began to bleed, and the tube would still not progress down the right. The nurse decided that it would be best to go have the procedure done downstairs.

Step 4 Analysis

Inserting a NG tube will vary from patient to patient. Not all patients will comply the way that we hope for, but we must still be willing to be patient and provide the best care that we can. If there is a safer way to do things, it is important that we do that for the sake of the patient. A skill like inserting an NG tube will take practice, but seeing the process take place in person is very helpful in the learning. My knowledge about NG tubes is greeter now that I've witnessed this situation.

<p><b>Step 2 Feelings</b> Watching the nurse insert the tube was a bit unsettling for me, because the thought of things down my own nose makes me cringe myself. I also felt bad for the patient because she was obviously very uncomfortable and her facial expressions expressed great discomfort. Each attempt was difficult to watch.</p>	<p><b>Step 5 Conclusion</b> In conclusion, I think the nurse made a good call deciding to send the patient downstairs. It turned out that she had a hiatal hernia. The family being present in the room also made it more nerve wrecking for the nurse because she did not want to be quite as forceful as she may have needed to in order to proceed with the discomfort of the patient. It was in the best interest for the patient to go have the procedure done downstairs.</p>
<p><b>Step 3 Evaluation</b> Even though I did not get to witness the successful insertion of the NG tube, I'm glad that I got to observe the skill in person for the first time. It was definitely a learning process. Now that I have seen it once, I would feel more comfortable to attempt to do it when another opportunity arises. I was also able to see first hand what a situation in which the attempt to insert a tube is not successful.</p>	<p><b>Step 6 Action Plan</b> This experience was definitely a learning process. I'm glad that I was able to see the skill, and I plan to use what I saw today in the future. I will think back to the moment when I get my first attempt at inserting a tube. I will be able to recall the steps that the nurse took, and hopefully will be able to successfully insert the tube.</p>