

Brenley Irvin

Scenario 4: Sickle Cell

- 1) What is the relationship between fluid and oxygen therapy in the treatment of sickle cell anemia? **With sickle cell anemia, the body's red blood cells are unable to carry oxygen adequately due to the sickling of the cells. Keeping the body hydrated will help keep the vessels open so they are able to transport oxygen more efficiently.**
- 2) What complications might Brittany Long face if her symptoms are not recognized and treated in a timely manner? **Acute pain, hypoxemia, dehydration and in severe cases-stroke**
- 3) Document the patient teaching that you would provide for Brittany Long and her family before discharge, including disease process, nutrition, signs and symptoms of crises, prevention of infection and dehydration, and pain management. **Make sure to drink an adequate amount of fluids and stay hydrated, avoid extreme temperatures and strenuous activities, watch for signs of stroke, be aware of signs of infection/fever.**
- 4) Reflecting on Brittany Long's case, were there any actions you would do differently? If so, what were these actions, and why would you do them differently? **Offer fluids PO and see how much she is able to take orally and assess her for any signs of infection and monitor O2 saturation.**
- 5) Describe how you would apply the knowledge and skills that you obtained in Brittany Long's case to an actual patient care situation. **In a sickle cell anemia crisis, it is important to assess the patient's oxygen saturation and administer oxygen if necessary. It is also important to start fluids on the patient to hydrate them and administer prescribed pain medications as needed to control the patient's pain.**