

Gas Exchange Summary

Along with the reactions summary I also have a few stories about TB, COPD, Sleep Apnea, Pneumonia, and chest tubes. Working in the hospital as a transporter I've gotten to see a lot of these firsthand and how it not only effects the patients, but also their families. These videos have given me a better understanding of the internal aspects going on within the patient and the signs and symptoms that go along with each, helping me distinguish between the different diagnosis and treatments.

So about 10 years ago both of my parents started working at the Lubbock State School (known as Lubbock State Supportive Living Center) where they met my now adopted brother Ronnie. Ronnie captured that hearts of my whole family very quickly, and due to his closest family being in Amarillo he was needing a legal guardian here in Lubbock to make medical decisions for him, so my mom stepped in. Ronnie is 53 years old, bed/wheelchair bound, has many different deformities, 2-3 different body tubes, and the mental compacity of 7-9 years old (he loves the Dallas Cowboys and any horror/thriller movies). Medically he is normally in and out of the hospital 2-3 a year, for either tube infections or pneumonia, but in January 2019 he was admitted for both, which led to a 50/50 life or death surgery. Ronnie was in the SICU for 2-3 weeks battling for his life against pneumonia and the tube infection, even getting to a point where we called in the priest for prayer and to determine where we went from there. Thankfully Ronnie pulled through and is now under different regimens to make sure he's not in this situation again. Meanwhile, during this same time I was also taking care of my grandad on hospice for lung cancer, these two people are my reasons why.

January 2019 was a hard month, while one of my favorite people recovered, one of them couldn't and lost their battle. During that time, I had a conversation with Ronnie and my pap (while he was still able to communicate) that I wanted to go back to school for nursing, because while taking care of them I knew that my heart belonged to the medical field. I know that my pap would be so proud and thankful that I was there doing his hospice care up until the time of his passing, sadly he didn't even get a week between diagnosis and passing. Though I find peace in knowing that I had the last coherent conversation with him and that he passed knowing that he was loved and taken care of.

Coming full circle now the lectures, videos, and the experiences I've had have given me more understanding to take with me throughout nursing school and into the nursing field when I graduate. Although these situations and stories are sad, I'm thankful that I'll be able to physically/emotionally support families and patients going through similar situations, with my two favorite people are at the back of my mind.