

Medical Case 5: Skyler Hansen

Guided Reflection Questions

1. How did the scenario make you feel?

I felt like I was prepared to encounter this scenario and I knew what to do. I knew since his blood sugar was low, I needed to administer something to bring it within normal levels.

2. What management options would have been appropriate if Skyler Hansen had been alert and could swallow?

I could have given him an option with foods such as carbohydrates before going to IV access.

3. If Skyler Hansen's acute hypoglycemic episode had not have been treated immediately, what could have happened?

He already had an altered LOC when he came in which would have led to possible unconsciousness and even death if his blood sugar levels were not raised.

4. If too much glucose were administered to Skyler Hansen while the health care team was trying to correct his blood glucose level, what could occur?

Rather than being hypoglycemic, he would have went into a state of hyperglycemia that can have many complications. He could have gone into ketoacidosis.

5. What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient? Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format.

It would be important to inform the physician that he was playing basketball when he needed to go sit down and that he did have a diagnosis of diabetes. Also, informing the physician of his blood glucose levels and what measures had been taken to increase it. Assessment data that revealed an altered LOC would be important to mention and recommending that we get medication such as dextrose in water or glucagon to raise his blood sugar since he was not able to swallow.

6. Describe age-appropriate patient teaching for Skyler Hansen and resources that may be helpful to him.

Informing him to wear a bracelet indicating he has diabetes, always carrying a snack with him in case of a hypoglycemic episode, learning how to check his blood sugar levels to prevent this from happening again, and taking insulin on a regular basis.

7. Discuss confidentiality and legal empowerment of 18-year-old patients such as in Skyler Hansen's case.

Since 18 is the legal age for an adult, he has the right to make his own medical decisions.

8. What would you do differently if you were to repeat this scenario? How would your patient care change?

I would have called the physician earlier to get an order for dextrose in water to administer it to Skyler. Also, setting up IV access in the beginning to prepare for medications in advance. This would have allowed me to administer the dextrose in water right away rather than having to wait.

