

## Surgical Case 1: Marilyn Hughes

### Guided Reflection Questions

1. How did the scenario make you feel? I was comfortable with this situation. Despite patient distress, I was able to remain calm and quickly realized her discomfort was due to compartment syndrome.
2. How would you recognize that Marilyn Hughes' condition was deteriorating? The patient's spike in blood pressure, increased heart rate, respirations, and temperature were all signs that she had begun to deteriorate.
3. What interventions exist to alleviate compartment syndrome, and what assessments indicate improved perfusion to the extremity? The interventions that exist to alleviate compartment syndrome include placing the effected extremity at heart-level and adjusting wound dressing to support blood flow. Assessment of capillary refill, temperature surrounding the extremity, and whether there is a pedal pulse indicate improved perfusion to the extremity.
4. Why is it important to maintain the limb at heart level versus elevating it above heart level? It is important to maintain the limb at hear level because it helps to increase circulation to the limb and prevents any further fluid build-up in the limb.
5. What could have happened in this scenario if Marilyn Hughes' condition was not treated expediently? If the patient's condition was not treated expediently the blood supply to her limb could have been compromised for too long resulting in risk for amputation.
6. What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient? Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format. Marilyn is a 45 year old female with a tibia-fubla fracture from a fall, with a surgical fixation repair and is now in a splint. Her vital signs are HR: 103, Temp:99 and BP 153/88. She has LR running in her IV at 75 ml/hr in the right periphery, the dressing was tight and the patient was in pain that was not relieved by pain meds.
7. What would you do differently if you were to repeat this scenario? How would your patient care change? If I were to repeat this scenario, I would try to react faster. In a case of compartment syndrome, a fast diagnosis and reaction are of the utmost importance.