

Medical Case 4: Carl Shapiro

Guided Reflection Questions

1. How did the scenario make you feel?

This scenario made me feel anxious. I was comfortable with all the assessments and following orders, but when the patient coded I panicked a little. I knew what needed to be done, but it still freaked me out a little.

2. What could have been the causes of Carl Shapiro's ventricular fibrillation?

I think that the patient's recent myocardial injury caused his vfib. His cardiac biomarkers were elevated. His heart muscle has been damaged and that put him at risk.

3. When performing CPR for Carl Shapiro, what are quality indicators you are performing resuscitation correctly?

Quality compressions could be seen on the monitor because Carl was hooked up to ECG monitoring. You should ensure that recoil is present, and the depth can be observed by the other rescuers to ensure adequate compressions are being performed.

4. Discuss safety aspects during defibrillation.

During defibrillation it is important that it is necessary before initiating. Whoever is going to deliver the shock should yell "clear" beforehand and ensure that no one is in any contact with the patient.

5. If Carl Shapiro would have had return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC), what would your next interventions be?

If the patient was to return and have spontaneous circulation I would then stop compressions. We would need to assess the airway and breathing. We would continue to monitor the patient.

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

During report it would be important to include that the patient was admitted to the ED with chest pain and that his labs indicated an elevated CK-MB and troponin. I would make the oncoming nurse aware that he went into Vfib and had to be resuscitated.

7. If Carl Shapiro's family members had been present at the bedside during the arrest, describe what you could have done to support them during this crisis.

If Carl's family was present during the time of his code I would have tried my best to keep them aware of what was going on and ensure them that we are doing our best to save him.

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

If I was to repeat the scenario again I would try to perform the tasks as quickly as I could to ensure the best possible outcome. I would make sure to complete all parts of the cardiac assessment.