

Guided Reflection Questions for Surgical Scenario 1: Marilyn Hughes

Opening Phase

How did the scenario make you feel?

- **This scenario made me feel more comfortable when it comes to this type of reaction. Reminded me how important it is to think fast in these types of situations.**

Scenario Analysis Questions*

PCC/EBP/S How would you recognize that Marilyn Hughes' condition was deteriorating?

- **I recognized it when her BP started to increase simultaneously with an increasing HR. the RR and Temp also started to rise which was a good indicator.**

PCC/S What interventions exist to alleviate compartment syndrome, and what assessments indicate improved perfusion to the extremity?

- **Place her leg at heart level**
- **Loosen the dressing**
- **Assess the color, temp and movement of the toes**
- **Pedal pulse and Cap refill on the toes**

EBP/S/PCC Why is it important to maintain the limb at heart level versus elevating it above heart level?

- **It helps to increase perfusion of blood from the heart to the lower extremities. It also helps with swelling and prevents fluid from accumulating.**

PCC/EBP/S What could have happened in this scenario if Marilyn Hughes' condition was not treated expediently?

- **The patient could have lost her leg due to the lack of blood flow going to her leg.**

T&C/PCC/EBP/S What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient? Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format.

- **45-year-old woman came to the ER with a fibula fracture. She has surgery to fix it and returned from surgery around 2:45 pm with a splint below the knee. She had LR running and stated that she was in pain, and it was due to feeling like the dressing was too tight. Once assessed, the dressing was too tight, so I loosened it. I recommend not elevating the leg because it decreases blood flow to the leg.**

Concluding Questions

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

- **I would intervene the moment she said she was having pain and that she couldn't move or feel her toes. That alone tells me it is an emergency and I need to react quickly.**

* The Scenario Analysis Questions are correlated to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies: Patient-Centered Care (PCC), Teamwork and Collaboration (T&C), Evidence-Based Practice (EBP), Quality Improvement (QI), Safety (S), and Informatics (I). Find more information at: <http://qsen.org/>