

Marilyn Reflection

I felt confident in this scenario, but I didn't realize I needed to take the pillow out from under her leg until the feedback.

I noticed when her BP, RR, and HR went up even though I had just given her the pain med. I knew something else was going on.

Leg level with the pt. Heart and loosening the dressing and reassessing the circulation.

It would help with edema, perfusion, and pain.

Her leg would have turned cyanotic and eventually necrotic with possible amputation from gangrene.

Marilyn is a 45 yr old female who just underwent surgery with internal fixation from a fracture she had from slipping on some stairs. She had her leg elevated on a pillow but she complained of it being too tight and during assessments I noticed she couldn't feel her toes and her pedal pulse wasn't palpable below the splint. I loosened her dressing and brought her leg down to heart level to help with perfusion. The dr. Has been notified and her perfusion is better. Keep an eye on her for compartment syndrome in case reoccurs. I would also give her current vitals.

I would have took her leg off the pillow and leveled with her heart at the beginning as a preventative. I would have lessened her dressing earlier than I did.

Stephanie Garza
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