

Megan Dull

Critical Thinking Worksheet

Primary problem (medical diagnosis) of patient: Nausea and Vomiting

1. Define and describe in your OWN WORDS, the pathophysiology of the primary problem of your patient: My patient was experiencing syncope. Syncope is fainting because blood flow to the brain is dramatically decreased. The In my patient's case, he was experiencing orthostatic hypotension, so his syncope would occur whenever he would get up from a sitting or supine position. The red blood cells (RBCs) carry hemoglobin, which carry oxygen. So, when there is a lack of blood to the brain, this means that there is a lack of oxygen, which is the real reason why syncope is occurring.

2. How would you explain and teach your patient about the pathophysiology of this medical problem using non-medical terminology? I would explain to the patient that syncope is when the brain is experiencing a quick and dramatic drop in blood. I would explain that the orthostatic blood pressure tests that have been ran show that when he stands up quickly, his blood pressure drops dramatically, which is causing the syncope.

3. What body system(s) are directly impacted by this disease and how are those systems affected?

Body System(s):	How Body Systems is Affected(s):
Gastrointestinal	The patient is receiving chemo on a regular basis. Known side effects of chemo are nausea and vomiting due to the toxins being exposed to the body. Because the N&S became persistent, the pt.'s electrolytes could become depleted.

4. PRIORITY nursing assessments with this disease? (refer to body system that is most affected). What assessment findings may be abnormal as a result of this illness?

Priority Assessments:	Expected Abnormal Assessments:
GI Assessment Urine Output	Hyperactive bowel sounds could be heard with persistent nausea and vomiting, as well as abd. stiffness and general pain. Due to the decrease in electrolytes, this could impair kidney function and could possible see a decrease in urine output or dark yellow urine due to dehydration.

5. What lab tests are altered by this problem? How are those lab tests affected? Does the altered lab test affect any physical assessment findings?

Abnl. Lab Tests	How Lab Test Affected:	Does it Impact Assessments:
Electrolytes CBC	The patient's electrolytes were still within normal limits, the only abnormal lab was Hgb, which is most likely from chemo. Pt was on continuous NS infusion, which appeared to be leveling out any electrolyte issue.	Pt complained of overall weakness, which could be explained due to the low Hgb levels. Pt. had a general feeling of malaise which could be from the strain her body has gone through from vomiting. Her bowel sounds were normoactive.

6. What medications are most commonly used to manage this problem?

Medications:	Mechanism of Action (Own Words):
Ondansetron	This drug is an antiemetic. This helped with the vomiting, which allowed the pt. to consume most of her meals, which could boost overall well being. Patient's bowel and urine output remained WNL for pt.

References

Zhong, W., Shahbaz, O., Teskey, G., Beever, A., Kachour, N., Venketaraman, V., & Darmani, N. A. (2021, May 28). *Mechanisms of nausea and vomiting: Current knowledge and recent advances in intracellular emetic signaling systems*. International journal of molecular sciences. Retrieved September 7, 2022, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8198651/>