Jonathan Paredes

Critical Thinking Worksheet

Primary problem (medical diagnosis) of patient: Abscess of Left breast, 2nd to tumor resection due to cancer.

1. Define and describe in your OWN WORDS, the pathophysiology of the primary problem of your patient: My pt has a history of Left sided breast cancer. During the resection process, the incision area became infected. Once the infection spread in the tissue, the area became inflammed, so much so that an abscess formed.

2. How would you explain and teach your patient about the pathophysiology of this medical problem using non-medical terminology?
In every surgical procedure there is a risk of infection. We need to treat this infection c oral/IV antibiotics before the bug gets into the blood stream. We will also drain the abscess to help c inflammation and collect the amount of fluid that comes out. will also

3. What body system(s) are directly impacted by this disease and how are those systems affected? Culture to see what bug we're dealing with.

Body System(s):	How Body Systems is Affected(s):
Cardiovascular, circulatory	• infection can cause pt to become septic
Frequent breast exams-	• Check for any abnormalities/growths

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:
Peripheral vascular assessment	• Expect Pain around tumor/incision site • Expect red irritation around surrounding breast tissue • Expect elevated temp around whole breast

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 Tests Affected:	Does It Impact Assessments:
White count	WBCs ↑	S/S of Sepsis
platelets	plts ↑	increased cx formation
H&H	slight elevation	increased to fight cx

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

Medications:	Mechanism Of Action (Own Words):
IV antibiotics/vanc	used to treat bacterial infections before entering (blood) stream
Tamoxifen - Sol/tamox	blocks the actions of estrogen, certain breast cancers require estrogen to grow.

Cite/Source

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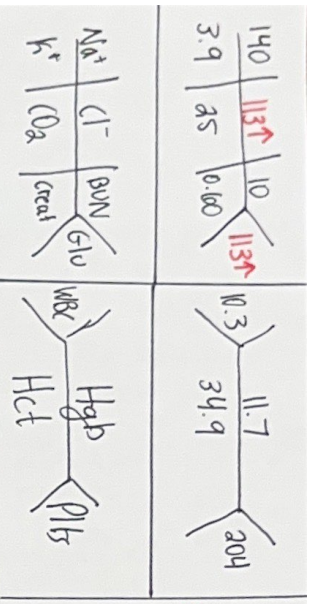
Lab Planning: Creating a Plan of Care with a Priority Lab

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
CBC	(4.5 - 11)		
Value:	**Critical Value:**	If elevated pt is @ risk of infection	If pt has elevated WBC and is post-op tumor removal, then we should start either oral/IV antibiotics. Check for s/s of infection – Erythema & pain
WBC	↑11		

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
CBC	(12.0 - 17.5)		
Value:	**Critical Value:**	In depth measurement for anemic pt's	Abnormal Hgb levels could indicate cancer growth, anemia, renal disase, ect. Do a peripheral vascular assessment
Hgb	↓12.0		

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
CBC	(34 - 52)		
Value:	**Critical Value:**	% of total blood volume thats made up of RBC's	Check for S/S of Anemia, blood loss, renal failure. If ↑ High, check for erythrocytosis, COPD & dehydration
Hct	<15% or >60%		

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
Value:	**Critical Value:**		



Albumin: 2.2↓

Total protein: 5.8↓

AST (SGOT) (REF): 8↓

Ca^{2+}: 8.1

Lab:	Normal Value:	Clinical Significance:	Nursing Assessment/Interventions Required:
CBC	150,000 – 450,000		
Value:	Critical Value:	Direct correlation to clotting ability	Increased Platelet count is associated ∈ increased # of cancer cells. Direct role for platelets in the pathogenisis of the breast Cx.
Platelets	↓ 100,000		