Leann Hill

Guided Reflection Questions for Surgical Case 4: Vernon Watkins

Opening Questions

How did the scenario make you feel?

I had no idea what to expect. I found myself startled and a wee bit flustered when the patient kept stating that he couldn't breathe.

Scenario Analysis Questions*

PCC/EBP/S Discuss your use of adjunct oxygen therapy for this patient, including why you chose a particular oxygen device, rate, and flow.

First I repositioned the pt and second I started him on a nasal cannula. My understanding of healthcare is least invasive to most invasive.

PCC Discuss Vernon Watkins' arterial blood gas (ABG) analysis result and explain what caused this result.

He had respiratory alkalosis with mild hypoxemia r/t perfusion insufficiency because of the embolism.

S/EBP Discuss the use of a heparin nomogram (guideline for heparin titration) and safety related to this intervention.

The use of heparin was to anticoagulate and prevent other clot formations. Labs are needed to prevent HIT.

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

69 yo male that underwent hemicolectomy surgery. Post-surgery he refused to ambulate and then started to complain about pain in his leg. He had difficulty breathing and complained of chest pain. Labs indicated a pe so he was given a heparin bolus followed by iv infusion. He is on 4 liters nasal cannula to keep his 02 at 92%

PCC Discuss why Vernon Watkins may be at risk for right ventricular failure as a complication of his pulmonary embolism (PE).

He is at risk because the clot can travel to his heart from the lung

PCC Discuss how you would communicate with the patient in acute respiratory distress in this emergency situation and what effective communication techniques you would use.

I would calmy nurse out loud and explain to the patient that he may be experiencing a pulmonary embolism.

Concluding Questions

Consider what would have happened if Vernon Watkins' family members had been present at the bedside, and describe how you would have supported them during this acute episode.

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I would have assured them that I would be doing everything in my power to help their loved one feel better.

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

No, the only thing different would be to try and not become flustered.

** 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/*

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