

La Tonya Esquibel

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Final Reflection

On one of the evenings of my clinical while in the Children's ED, a 4-year-old male patient came in at 3 am with dizziness and stumbling while walking. When my preceptor and I entered the patient's room he was jumping on the stretcher. He did seem unsteady when evaluating him. He almost fell off the bed, so we lifted the side rail up to prevent that from happening. The patient was nonverbal so he was unable to tell us anything about what may have caused the situation or how he was feeling. The mother of the patient stated that he was at his was staying a grandparent and someone living there "smokes marijuana" and she was scared that the patient got into it. While on the monitor the patients heart rate was noted to be irregular. The patient was hyper and running around the room, jumping on the stretcher and mother stated that the patient had not slept in 24 hours. Labs were drawn and we waited for the results. A couple of hours later the patient was asleep and would not wake up to his name being called or being shaken to wake up. The mother stated he was tired. All labs came back negative on everything and after our shift was over the patient was admitted to the floor.

This experience was concerning for my preceptor and I because the patient appeared to have something going on with his hyperactivity and unsteadiness. I felt sad for the patient because he seemed so tired but not sleepy for the first couple of hours while in the ED. Learning that he may have been exposed to drugs did make me feel upset. The parents story did not really make sense but we are not there to judge, we needed to make sure the patient got the right treatment. Learning that the patient did not show drugs or anything else illegal in his system did make me feel a little more at ease, but it was concerning the was he was presenting.

I definitely expected the lab work to come back positive for some kind of substance to explain the reasons why the patient was acting the way he was. My preceptor and I did not treat the parents any different than any other parents due to the possible exposure, even though the story was concerning. After the results showed nothing irregular it was even more alarming of the patient's symptoms because we still had no reason for the symptoms.

Although we did not get to see the whole outcome of the diagnosis, I feel as though the patient may have some kind of underlying issues. He may have an undiagnosed manic disorder which cause him to have the hyperactivity and not able to sleep which may have

cause the unsteadiness. I think he should have further testing done in order to see if he does have any underlying issues.

I have learned not to judge any situation. Being able to see firsthand how even though I feel I know what may have happened in a situation, I could also be very wrong. The patient was potentially exposed to an illegal substance and the parents continued to add/change to the story when giving details, I was guilty of judging the situation with just those facts. These parents were being truthful and possibly scared because of the situation and just wanted to get answers to their child's behavior.

In conclusion, this has taught me to never prejudge any situation. I will now go into every situation with an open mind with many possibilities until facts are shown and I hope the parents find the answers they are looking for.