

Vincent Brody Reflection Questions

1. How did the scenario make you feel?
 - The scenario made me nervous. It felt as though the provider was taking a long time to arrive to place the chest tube. This is similar to that of real life where doctors are busy with more than one patient and more than one life threatening scenario. The patient kept complaining of chest pain and difficulty breathing. I had to go through all my steps to make sure that consent was signed, patient was pre-medicated with morphine all while watching the patient's heart rate and oxygen saturation. I had to make a call to change the patient to a nonrebreather mask because the patient's oxygen saturation was not getting better.

2. When a patient develops shortness of breath, what are the nurse's immediate priorities?
 - As the nurse you need to monitor the patients airway and breathing. You need to monitor the oxygenation status. You need to keep the patient sitting upright. You also need to administer oxygenation therapy as needed. Provide a focused assessment of the respiratory system. Auscultate the lungs. What do you hear? Crackles? Wheezes? Absent breath sounds? Identify the reason of the shortness of breath. Make sure to contact the physician as well.

3. What assessment findings would indicate the patient's condition is worsening?
 - There are a number of things that would indicate the patient's condition is worsening. The main thing I think of is an increase of confusion. Lack of oxygen to the brain causing the patient to become confused. They could also become drowsy for the same reasons of not adequate oxygenation. There would be a change in their oxygen saturation. You would expect to see cyanosis or clubbing of the fingernails. The patient's skin pallor could be changing, They will be increasingly short of breath. They could even report chest tightness or pain such as that of Vincent Brody's case.

4. What are some safety considerations when caring for a patient with a chest tube.
 - As we learned a patient can still ambulate with the chest tube if they are able. You want to make sure the tubing stays below that of the insertion site. You also want to make sure it is not kinked or clamped off. If it is clamped verify that it is because of a Doctors order. You want to make sure a patient does not trip and fall with the tubing. As the nurse you want to monitor the patient's breath sounds, and other vital signs such as respiration rate. You want to make sure

your asking patient about pain. This is a foreign object inserted into the body. It is going to cause the patient discomfort. Make sure you are medicating accordingly. Make sure you are looking at the drainage from the tube. Take note in what color it is, the odor, and the amount. You want to assess the patients skin for tenderness, redness or swelling at the insertion site. Want to be careful when handling the chest tube so it does not become dislodged and turn into an emergent situation.