

Discussion Questions

Is the setting appropriate to care for this client? Why or why not?

This setting is appropriate for the client and is a safe environment. The patient was comfortable and pain got down to a 3. The reason why this was appropriate is because of the priorities for the patient's care. Making sure that the patient gets the best possible care is a major priority in this.

- What considerations (culture, literacy, religion, diet, economic, education, pronouns, gender identity, etc.) should you address when caring for this client?

Some considerations that should be addressed with this client is culture/religion, this is because the client may have specific beliefs or thoughts that they want done for their care. Their diet is important due to knowing what types of foods they like to eat. Education is important to know the highest level of education they completed. Pronouns/gender identity are important to understand what the patient goes by and how they want to be addressed.

- What resources or supplies will you need when caring for this client?

Some of the different supplies that are needed when caring for this client are sterile dressings for the incision site. Supplies such as vital signs, stethoscope, penlight, and IV would be very important. Some resources would be to use therapeutic communication and respect the client. These are all important to use when caring for any client.

Clinical Judgment Questions

Recognize Cues (Assessment)

- Was the report effective for you to care for this client?

I feel as if the report was good, but could have added things from the full body assessment. I also feel like not having the chart changed the ways I had to go about my care. The report used the SBAR by giving all of the proper information that was needed. It also gave the important findings and abnormalities that we needed to know when going further into our care.

- What information is missing from the scenario and is needed to effectively care for the client?

Some of the information that is missing from the scenario that is important was the chart. The chart is important to know what her lab values were, these are such an important thing to have because the abnormal value could tell us something we wouldn't know without seeing them. One other thing that was missing was the MAR, I was unable to see how many full mL's of D 5 ½ NS that the client was receiving.

- What information was relevant to the client's condition?

The information that was relevant to the client's condition was their incision assessment. Another would be the pain that they had in their abdomen due to the incision. The medications they were on could show you some issues the client was experiencing and why they were on them. The last thing would be that their temperature was elevated and could indicate infection.

- What subtle changes did you recognize in the client's condition? What condition were the subtle changes in the client's health status related to?

The subtle changes that I recognized in the client was that their pain level changed from a higher number to a 4. That could indicate that the client is healing and feeling better post surgery. Another change that I noticed was that the bowel sounds were hypoactive during the assessment. This could mean that the clients intestinal activity had changed and could possibly indicate constipation.

Analyze Cues (Analysis)

- Compare the client findings to the evidence-based resources and standards of care.

When comparing the clients finding to evidence based resources we would need to check that the interventions are effective for the client. We need to also make sure that the documentation on this client is accurate and relevant. Another would be how we could prevent issues for the client in the future and see if there are any changes that need to be made in their everyday lives. Assessment, correct medication administration, monitoring VS, hand hygiene, and accurate documentation is very important in the standards of care.

- What are the specific needs of this client?

The specific needs that this client needed was their medication for pain and fluids. These are important to help the client get to where they need to be. Another specific need is that we need to continuously monitor their vital signs. This is because changes in these could indicate complications and we need to change their care. Their temperature is a high priority to check on due to the elevation.

- What are the potential complications this client may experience?

The potential complications that this client may experience is nasal irritation from the NG tube rubbing. Another is that they may feel uncomfortable due to the pain that they are in. Something else is if they are experiencing side effects from their oxycodone, this could cause them to have respiratory depression and hypersensitivity. All of these could indicate more serious complications and add to the care that they need.

- What findings are of immediate concern for this client?

Some of the findings that were immediate concerns were the elevated temperature. This is due to the possibility of infection and other complications. The next one is their pain level and this could end up getting worse if they were to get an infection at the incision site. The last one is that the NG tube was on continuous suction. Even though it is on low continuous suction, there still could be a possibility of a drop in their potassium level.

Prioritize Hypotheses (Analysis)

- Identify and rank the top three problems for this client. Provide a rationale for your decision on the rank order.

The top three problems for this client were the client had a temperature of 101.2. This is important because this could be a possible factor that there is an infection so we should check their WBC count to see if that is elevated as well. She was also having severe pain in her abdomen. Making sure that the client is comfortable is a priority. The last one is that she was still having pain with ambulation and was needing assistance days after surgery. This is a priority because we need to make sure she is able to walk again without any issues before we discharge her.

Generate Solutions (Planning)

- What interprofessional healthcare team member will need to be included in establishing a plan of care?

One of the healthcare team members that need to be included is the doctor. This is because they are the ones who make very important decisions for the client and need to give the nurse the information that they want the nurse to complete. Another would be the CNA, this could help smooth out some of the basic needs of the client. The CNA would know what they need to do and what their priority is in their scope of practice.

Take Actions (Implementation)

- Identify the nursing actions that should be taken based on the prioritized client problems.

Some of the actions that the nurse should take are monitoring vital signs. They should also be checking for incisions for any drainage or redness. Monitoring changes are very important and getting those documented so the doctor can see what is needed for further action. The last action that would be a priority is checking their pain level to try and help them feel comfortable.

- Identify the potential impact the nursing action has on the client outcomes.

The potential impact that nursing action has on the clients outcomes is helping their pain get better. They could also help that the client is healing from their surgery and making sure that they don't get an infection. Drawing labs can help them by knowing what they need and what is abnormal so we can get their levels back to normal.

Evaluate Outcomes (Evaluation)

- What responses by the client would indicate that the nursing actions were effective?

Some of the responses that would indicate that the actions were effective are that they understood what the medications they were getting were used for. For example the oxycodone was for the pain and the D 5 ½ NS was to give them fluids. Also understanding why they were on their specific diets was also important so they could know what foods they were allowed to have.

- What are the safety concerns you identified caring for the client(s)?

Some of the safety concerns that I identified while caring for the client are infection for their incision site. Another concern I had was their tenderness when palpating the abdomen. That could be a normal finding post surgery due to the area being sore. That is something that we would need to keep an eye on and try to get their pain level lower so they are more comfortable.

Reflection Questions

Evaluate your ability to care for the client(s). What did you do well, and what could have been improved?

I felt that my ability to take care of the client was ok. I definitely could have done better by the questions that it asked. I think that I did well on the medication administration part of this assignment. Some things that could be improved are my priorities and decision making. I think that I need to work on this in my future assignments.

- Discuss what information you would need to know prior to caring for this client if you could do this over.

If I were to do this again, it would be nice to have access to a chart. It's nice to be able to look more in depth at things for your client. It seemed like I was only able to go off the report that was given to me and then the assessment that I did. One more thing that would be nice is having a MAR and getting access to that.

- What do you know now that you did not know prior to completing this case?

Something that I did not know prior to this case was specific things about the abdomen, skin, and GI tract. This assignment helped me learn a bit more about those things. I also did not know some of the medications that were used in these scenarios. This assignment made it easier to understand and grasp more information.

- How will this experience change the way you care for clients in the future?

This experience will change the way I care for clients in the future by making sure to provide a comfortable environment. And making sure that I know what the priority is when caring for clients. I will make sure that I assess vital signs, labs, and pain levels. I will also make sure that I am double checking the MAR before administering medications.

- Describe what you learned and how you will learn from this experience.

This experience really helped me with critical thinking and medication administration. It helped me make sure I was giving the correct medication and the right client. I learned more about what medications do and their therapeutic effects. I will learn from this experience by taking the skills I learned and use them in real life situations. I think that this experience was very helpful and going to be useful in the future.