IMMUNE SYSTEM CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE

Read the following case study and then answer the questions below.

Mr. Volpi is a 65-year-old retired salesman. He was re-admitted to your surgical unit yesterday with a diagnosis of wound infection following a lumbar laminectomy. He has orders for an IV antibiotic to be given every 6 hours. In report you were told that he has had 2 doses of the antibiotic without incident.

As you enter Mr. Volpi’s room to assess him, you find him sitting up in bed, alert and oriented and in no apparent distress. You hang his antibiotic and leave the room.

Five minutes later you notice that Mr. Volpi’s call light is on. You walk into the room and find the patient extremely anxious and restless. He complains of itching and his voice sounds hoarse.

1. Initial Assessments: What further information do you need to collect before you proceed? Why?

2. Problem label: Indicate a specific problem label for this scenario (in other words, your “best guess” as to the medical diagnosis or condition):

3. Information to MD: What specific information will you report to the MD? Answer this question in SBAR format (see Module One). Why did you choose this specific information?

4. Anticipated orders: What orders/treatments/interventions would you anticipate for this problem? Why?

5. Nursing interventions: What specific nursing interventions/plan of action would you initiate for this problem? Why?

6. Monitoring: What specific things would you monitor in order to evaluate the patient’s response to interventions taken? Why?

7. Patient interaction: How would you reassure this patient? What information/teaching needs to be given, both during this situation and afterwards? Why did you choose these specific communications?

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