

Case Study: A Patient with Congestive Heart Failure

A 79 year old gentleman was admitted to the hospital with heart failure. He had been growing progressively weaker, has dyspnea on exertion and pitting ankle edema. He states that he needs 3 pillows at night so he can sleep. On admission, he is severely dyspneic and can answer questions only with one word phrases. He is diaphoretic, tachycardic with a pulse of 128 and hypotensive with a BP of 98/60. He is extremely anxious. You are the student nurse assigned to this patient.

Answer the following questions regarding this patient.

1. You notice that the patient cannot breathe or talk easily. Prioritize the immediate nursing assessments upon admission.
2. Explain why the patient with congestive heart failure would have the symptoms listed above.
3. Based on your assessment, identify nursing diagnoses for this patient.
4. The physician orders the following for this patient. Explain the rationale for these medications, lab work and treatments.
 - a. Start an IV stat with D5W at TKO
 - b. Propranolol hydrochloride (Inderal) 80 mg PO every 6 hours.
 - c. Furosemide (Lasix) 40 mg IV stat
 - d. Digoxin 0.5 mg PO every 6 hours x 4 doses
 - e. Morphine 2 mg IV stat and then 2 mg every 1-2 hours IV prn
 - f. Oxygen 5 L/min per nasal prongs
 - g. BNP, CBC and Complete Metabolic Panel