

Case Study Three

Dispatch: 16:00 hrs; 13 y/o male, difficulty breathing

On Arrival: You find 13 y/o Julio lying prone in bed. He appears pale and looks like he is sleeping. His chest is barely moving.

Initial Assessment Findings

Mental Status—He cries when you try to wake him, does not obey command, does not open his eyes

Airway—Open and clear

Breathing—R 26 and shallow; lung sounds clear bilaterally

Circulation—Skin pale, hot and dry

Radial pulse 166

BP 112/78

Chief Complaint—According to mother he “turned blue”

Focused History

Events—Julio’s mother tried to wake him to take him to the doctor’s office. Julio became agitated, “shook all over and turned blue.” That’s when his mother called EMS.

Previous Illness—Julio has frequent upper respiratory infections, last one 6 months ago.

Current Health Status—Last week, Julio came down with the worst “cold” he has ever had. Three days ago he began having a severe headache and yesterday could not get out of bed because it made his headache worse. Today he “wasn’t making sense” so she made an appointment with the family physician. His mother first noticed a fever “sometime” last week.

Allergies—None known

Medications—acetaminophen and aspirin for fever, last dose of Tylenol “maybe a few hours ago”.

Focused Physical

Current Set of VS; Pulse 166, RR26, BP 112/78

Other Pertinent Findings—A fine petechial rash is present on Julio’s trunk and seems to be spreading across his shoulders; his mother states the rash is new; Julio becomes agitated when you attempt to shine a light to evaluate pupil reaction, moving all extremities; pulse oximetry is 99% on room air.

Case Study Three Questions

1. What is significant about Julio's history?
2. What body systems are affected?
3. What is the relationship between his tachycardia, tachypnea, and hot, dry skin?
4. Is there a relationship between his fever and his mother's description of headache, "not making sense," agitation when disturbed, and "shook all over and turned blue?"
5. What is significant about is petechial rash?
6. What is significant about Julio's agitation when you attempt to look at his pupils?
7. Is there any information from his history or physical examination that might be helpful?
8. What is Julio at risk for?
9. What do you think is the cause of Julio's current condition?
10. How would you begin treatment?
11. What is the purpose of a fever?
12. When is a fever too high?
13. What special consideration does this case present for you and your partner in terms of BSI?