

Case Study Two

Dispatch: You are responding to a 56 y/o male with a medical problem, nature unknown.

On Arrival: 56 y/o Michael is found sitting at his desk in his office. He is awake but has a gray color to his face and is diaphoretic. His secretary is with him.

Initial Assessment Findings

Mental Status—Alert and oriented, obeys commands

Airway—Open and clear

Breathing—RR 18, talking in complete sentences: lung sounds are faint in bases, clear in upper lobes

Circulation—Skin ashen, cold, very diaphoretic

Radial pulse not present, carotid faint and hard to feel

Chief Complaint—“Very dizzy”

Focused History

Events—Michael was working at his desk when he suddenly broke out in a cold sweat, became faint and nauseated. Michael called for his secretary. She took one look and called for an ambulance.

Pertinent History—Michael was diagnosed with adult onset diabetes 6 months ago, as well as hypertension and ulcers.

Current Health Status—He has not been feeling well for several days with flu-like symptoms: achy, indigestion, no energy, and no appetite. He denies fever. He needed to complete some contracts so came in today to work.

Allergies—None known

Medication—Gilipizide, cimetidine, atenolol, is compliant with medications

Last oral intake—toast and tea this morning for breakfast

Focused Physical Exam

Vital signs—Pulse 66, Blood pressure 74/40, Respiratory rate 18

Other Pertinent Findings—Denies any pain, vomiting, diarrhea. No edema noted, no other abnormalities found.

Diagnostic Tests—BS by glucometer “high”

Case Study Two Questions

1. What is significant about Michael's history?
2. What body systems are affected?
3. Is there anything that could interfere with normal compensatory methods?
4. What is the significance of Michael's diabetes to his current complaint?
5. What is the significance of a blood sugar reading that is "high"?
6. How serious is Michael's situation?
7. Is there a recognizable pattern to Michael's signs and symptoms? What are all the possibilities?
8. What is the first priority of care?
9. Which body systems are the ones to specifically reassess to help you tell where or what the origin on the problem is?
10. What is your impression?
11. How would you continue treatment?