

Case #1

Mrs. Rosemeyer is 84 years old and had a cholecystectomy three days ago. She lives alone and is said by her family to function completely independently. Since her surgery she has been alternately lethargic and agitated, although today she was lucid in the morning and ate her breakfast without assistance. She has been incontinent of urine at times. She has accused the nurses of trying to poison her and has pulled out her IV line several times. She has not been out of bed since her surgery except to use the bedside commode. Her medications consist of Demerol, hydrochlorothiazide, Ranitadine and dephenhydramine, she is an elderly appearing woman tied to bed with soft restraints. She has a Foley catheter in place. She is somnolent and difficult to arouse. She is afebrile. Mucous membranes appear dry. With a nurse assisting you, you are able to sit her at the side of the bed and notice an orthostatic drop in blood pressure. There are a few rhonchi heard with chest auscultation. Normal bowel sounds are present. There are no lateralizing neurological findings, pathological reflexes, clonus, or asterixis. She is able to follow only simple one-step commands. Speech is incoherent, and concentration and ability to attend are grossly impaired.