



Medical Error and 2nd Victim - Learner Case Studies

Case Study 1 (15 minutes)

James/Jenny is a junior doctor who was involved in a clinical error on a recent night shift. They looked after a 42 year old male patient with abdominal pain who presented in the middle of the night.

The patient was diagnosed with gastroenteritis and sent home with antiemetics. 14 hrs later the patient represented looking unwell with fevers and worsening abdominal pain. The patient underwent a CT scan and was diagnosed with a perforated appendix. An urgent appendicectomy was then performed. The patient is now recovering on the surgical ward with a prolonged course of antibiotics for sepsis.

James/Jenny has returned to work this evening for their night shift and was informed of the outcome by another junior doctor. They have become upset.

Your task is to meet with James/Jenny and debrief them regarding the case.

Case Study 2 (15 minutes)

Sam/Sarah is a Registrar in your department who has just performed a central venous line insertion on a patient with sepsis. This was required for commencement of inotropes. The patient was too unwell to consent for the procedure and verbal consent was obtained from the next of kin for the procedure.

During insertion of the line in the Subclavian vein, the patient sustained a pneumothorax. This subsequently caused the patient to deteriorate due to a tension pneumothorax. The patient is now stable after insertion of an intercostal catheter and has been transferred safely to the ICU.

The Registrar has become upset after returning from ICU as they felt the ICU staff were critical of their choice of the Subclavian vein as the site of insertion. They have asked you to debrief them regarding the events.

Your task is to meet with Sam/Sarah and debrief them regarding the case.