

Facilitator Notes For EM

- What are your initial thoughts about this patient?
- Do you notice any of your personal judgments or biases coming up?
- How can your profession positively contribute to the patient's condition?
- Where would you begin as a health care provider for this patient?
- What is one way the health care team can collaborate to improve the care of this patient?
- What other providers can/should be involved in the care of this patient?
- What role can a nurse play in helping his patient return to his ADLs?
- How can the health care provider help this patient?
- Has he tried anything else for pain relief besides narcotics and surgery?
- Does he have the financial support to pay for all his services?
- What additional resources or education does he need?
- Is it possible that the brace is actually hindering his recovery at this time?
- Is he physically or emotionally dependent on the brace and if so, how does this impact his recovery?
- What kind of supplements should EM be taking so that he maintains his nutritional status and doesn't lose any more weight?
- What types of changes do you think EM was able to make in his home to make his life more manageable?
- Do you think EM would benefit from mental health counseling?
- What additional assessments would be relevant for this patient?
- What pain techniques have you seen or used in a clinical setting that have been effective?
- What can someone from your profession offer to a patient who is unable to take narcotics?
- Do you have suggestions of pain relief strategies for this patient that he may not have tried?
- What has been effective in your own pain relief?
- What other resources or health programs could the patient turn to besides his general physician for chronic pain support?
- Do you think there is a psychological effect from not being able to go back to work?
- Are there any other medications or operations that this patient would qualify to try?
- Would trying another operation be advisable considering his past experiences?
- What are some reasons why he failed his initial fusion attempts?
- How does one determine what a "fulfilling life" looks like? Do people have thoughts about how fulfilling E.M's life is as it is right now?

Additional Resources

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist: In regards to positioning, Anesthesiologist's Manual of Surgical Procedures, Richard A. Jaffe, is an excellent resource for anesthesia providers. It outlines necessary positioning for all procedures.

Medical Student: Full PE including vitals, osteopathic structural exam, neurological exam (to assess leg weakness, sensory loss, bladder/bowel symptoms), and musculoskeletal exam, straight leg raise test, imaging: MRI

Nursing: pain scale, dietician, physical therapist

Occupational Therapist: Function Mobility Assessment, Occupational Profile, Home Evaluation, ADL Assessment, Employment Assessment, Nutritional Assessment

Physical Therapist: MMT of LE and palpation/observation of lumbar spine.

Social Work: His support system.