

Sample Clinical Judgment Scenario: Bianca - Concerned client

CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS: You are the registered nurse working on a general surgery unit and are taking care of a 43-year-old woman named Bianca who has had a modified right radical mastectomy. She is experiencing acute swelling of the right arm, known as lymphedema. The client is concerned about the swelling and wants to know why this has happened and how she can prevent the swelling.

In the next three minutes, explain how you would address the client's concerns.

<p>Answer Key:</p> <p>Check all responses given.</p> <p>Specify any additional responses in the Notes section.</p>	<p>Explain what lymphedema is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accumulation of fluid in the tissue after excision of lymph nodes (1) • Accumulation of lymph in soft tissue (1) <p>Explain why this has happened</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulation is impaired because the axillary nodes were removed (1) <p>Educate the client on how to reduce the swelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-operative exercises (1) • Elevate arm (1) • No IVs, no blood pressures on affected arm (1) • Avoid trauma to protect from infection (1) • Explain that the swelling is caused by the disease process (0) • Explain that the swelling is caused by the IV going interstitial (0) • Explain that the client doesn't have to worry as the swelling will decrease on its own (0) • Other answer (0) • No answer given (0)
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Circle the <i>most</i> appropriate rating scale category based on the candidate's performance to this clinical scenario:			
Unsatisfactory	Marginal	Competent	Highly Competent
No answer, wrong answer, or poor answer and/or explanation	Partially correct answer and/or explanation	Applies relevant knowledge and demonstrates basic critical thinking	Applies relevant knowledge and makes reasoned, reflective and insightful decisions
If you circled "Unsatisfactory", please specify why (select all that apply):			
<input type="radio"/> No answer <input type="radio"/> Wrong answer <input type="radio"/> Did not address the question		<input type="radio"/> Poor communication <input type="radio"/> Poor nursing knowledge	
Comments:			
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