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|  | UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA | SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY  MASTER DEGREE IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY A.A. 2021/2022  Case Based Learning and General Clinical Practice |

**UNIT 5- GROUP EXERCISE 1**

**Mr. Charles**

**30 min**

Mr. Charles is 86 years old , has been affected by dementia for more than ten years, he is often confused, anxious and mentally disturbed

He is suffering from hypertension, chronic heart failure, type 2 diabetes mellitus NID(Not Insulin Dependent) well controlled, 1 year ago he was catheterized due to Benign prostatic hypertrophy and his nurse changes his catheter every 15 days.

He is cared for by his wife, 80 years old, and by his sons who take turns caring for him every week.

They call me for a home visit because Mr. Charles has been running a temperature of 37.8 degrees celsius for two days, he is also coughing and agitated.

The wife:

“Even if he were affected by a severe illness I wouldn’t want to admit him to the hospital”

“After all these years I want him at home. You know the sacrifices I have made to take care of him at home.”

“But if you, doctor, decides that he has to go to the hospital I will obey!”

You visit the patient.

* Respiration rate: 26-28 per min
* Pulse: 100 per min
* BP: 115/60
* Thorax:

Palpation : Restricted expansion of the lower part of the right thorax.

Auscultation – basal crackles heard in the Right lung.

* Abdomen: normal
* The patient has swollen legs but they are not more swollen than they were in the past.
* Patient is more confused and agitated than the last time you saw him.

***What are your hypotheses?***

***Which hypothesis do you select ? What criteria would you use?***

***What main signs have helped you in the evaluation?***

***What do the guidelines suggest in the case of this working diagnosis?***

***How serious is the problem for the patient?***

***What is the degree of uncertainty about the outcome if you make the intervention you have considered?***

***What would you decide to do?***

***What exactly would you tell the patient’s wife?***

Pasolli Parisi 2018