



Restraint and Sedation

Case 1.

You are called to triage urgently - A 32 year-old man on an ambulance trolley is aggressive and swearing. He is kicking at the ambulance officers and trying to get off the trolley. The ambulance was called by his family, who were concerned by his agitation. Initially agreeing to be transported to hospital, the patient became aggressive *en route*.

1. List your differential diagnoses for this patient
2. Describe your approach to this situation

You decide to sedate the patient.

3. Describe indications, doses and adverse effects of:
 - a. Diazepam
 - b. Midazolam
 - c. Olanzapine
 - d. Droperidol
4. The clinical situation is under control. However, the patient's mother accuses you of assault and threatens legal action. Outline your response.

Case 2.

Nursing staff have requested you shackle a 24 year old man with schizophrenia who is trying to leave the ED before he has been seen by a doctor.

1. In what situations is it appropriate to prevent a patient leaving the ED against their will?
2. What factors do you consider before and after physically restraining a patient?

Case 3.

A 74 year old woman with pneumonia is in your ED awaiting a ward bed. She has a past history of dementia, NIDDM and COPD. She has become confused and is trying to climb out of bed and leave the ED.

1. List your differential diagnoses for this patient
2. Describe your approach to this situation

