

ABS: Sally

Sally is a 15 year old female who sustained a traumatic brain injury secondary to a moving vehicle accident three weeks ago. Following medical stabilization, she was admitted to the rehabilitation unit one week ago.

This evening, Sally is eating her dinner in the dining hall. She is generally able to feed herself independently, but requires occasional cueing to finish the meal because she becomes distracted by other patients in the room. She'll work on her meal for a short time, then go over to another table to talk to another patient. Without cueing, she would move from table to table, never resuming her meal. With cueing, she usually returns to her meal, but sometimes has a brief outburst of irritation before doing so. She is not violent, but does express anger briefly.

After dinner, Sally wants to participate in a simple card game with two other patients and a nurse. However, she is having trouble following the sequence of the game. She doesn't wait for her turn, even after several cues to do so. When she sees another player pick a card she needs, she immediately says she needs that card and tries to grab it. Cues are not successful in inhibiting this behavior. She tries to move her wheelchair away from the table during the game, and the nurse must physically hold her chair to prevent her from leaving the room. Verbal cues are not successful. The nurse must eventually leave the game with Sally so that she can move herself up and down the hall. It is not possible to keep her in one area continuously, so the nurse must supervise her constantly.

It is time to get ready for bed, and the nurse guides Sally into her room to change into her bedclothes. Sally is initially resistant to getting undressed, so the nurse lets her sit in her chair for a minute while she prepares the bed. When she returns, Sally is cooperative with changing her clothes and getting into bed.

Once in bed, Sally moves about excessively to the point that she is in danger of rolling off the bed. Some of the movement involves rubbing her ear against the pillow, while other movement appears to be random fidgeting. The bedrails and a bed belt are utilized to keep her in bed safely, however they do not significantly inhibit her movements. She frequently goes through extended periods of repeated a sequence of sitting up, then laying down, then pulling at the bed belt. Her movements result in slipping underneath the belt, requiring repositioning by the nurse supervising her. Redirection and cueing are not effective in inhibiting any of the behavior observed. The nurse must provide constant supervision with physical restraint, medicate, or allow Sally to get out of bed and move up and down the hall with constant supervision and intervention.

Answer Key

1. 3
2. 4
3. 3
4. 1
5. 2
6. 4
7. 4
8. 4
9. 4
10. 4
11. 1
12. 1
13. 1
14. 1