Case Study
Diabetic Type I
Angel Christman

Angel Christman is a 17 year old known diabetic since age five (5). She is admitted to the emergency department with a blood sugar of 450 and with flushed dry skin. Her mother found her on the bathroom floor nonresponsive and has brought her to the hospital.

1. What do you think the problem is, and what other assessment data would help confirm your suspicion?
2. Explain the underlying pathophysiology of this problem (be specific and complete in your investigation).
3. What classic treatment is indicated? (include meds and IV solution)

Angel was diagnosed with diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA). She has stabilized with IV fluids, electrolytes, and insulin. She has resumed her 2100-calorie diabetic diet and insulin doses and is preparing to be discharged tomorrow. She reveals to the nurse that this whole thing happened because she did not feel well yesterday and did not take her insulin. Her mother tells the nurse that Angel has not been in good control for some time now since she has been dating and hanging out with fiends. Her mother suspects that Angel has also been experimenting with alcohol.

4. What specific information do diabetics such as Angel need to know about caring for themselves during illness and infection?
5. How should the nurse address Angel’s suspected behavior? How does the period of adolescence influence Angel?

Angel is referred to the diabetic clinical specialist. Two months later the nurse is working in the diabetic clinic and Angel arrives for her scheduled appointment. During her interview Angel reports she ahs been having frequent episodes of low blood sugar. Currently she just takes orange juice and has not required emergency medical intervention.

6. What are classic signs of hypoglycemia?
7. What questions should the nurse ask or what other data is needed to find out why the episodes are occurring? Describe the 3 causes of morning hypoglycemia?
8. What basic information does Angel need to know to treat hypoglycemia?