Case Study
Ocular Problems
Mr. Alvarez

Mr. Alvarez is a 77 year-old retired graphic artist. He has been married for 52 years to his wife, Maria. They live alone as all eight children are grown and gone from home. He is being seen today for his yearly routine eye exam. He states he needs new glasses because his eyesight is hazy.

Question
1. What additional assessment data should the nurse collect?

Physical exam shows vital signs to be T-98F, P-80, R-20, BP 130-76. Inspection reveals an opaque right lens with the right pupil being grayish-white in appearance. The left eye appears normal. Snellen chart in right eye = 20/150, left eye = 20/50. Mr. Alvarez states he takes Hydrochlorothiazide 50mg every day for high blood pressure with a glass of orange juice. He states he is afraid to drive anymore and that the glare from headlights blinds him. He denies any headaches or eye pain and states his vision remains hazy no matter what he tries. His eye sight has gotten to the point that he is unable to read or engage in his artistic hobbies. His physician diagnoses a right eye cataract and recommends surgery.

Questions:
2. What preoperative teaching should be done?
3. Since this is an outpatient surgery, what postoperative instructions will be given prior to discharge?

Mr. Alvarez is sent home following an uneventful cataract removal and lens implant of the right eye. His wife brings hem to the emergency room two days postop, and Mr. Alvarez states his eyesight has changed and he feels like he is looking through a veil, seeing flashing lights and floaters in his right eye”. He denies any eye pain. In examining his peripheral vision you find no peripheral vision present in his right eye. His left eye is normal.

4. What do you expect is happening to Mr. Alvarez and why? Are these normal findings following cataract surgery?
5. What do you expect will be the intervention for Mr. Alvarez?
6. What additional teaching is needed postoperatively?

You are caring for Mr. Alvarez on the surgical unit after his surgery for retinal detachment. You also have six other clients, one of whom is actively hemorrhaging. You ask a colleague to help you by hanging an IV for Mr. Alvarez so you can manage your hemorrhaging client. She responds, “Sorry, I’m busy too. You’ll have to deal with it!” You not that she has been talking with her husband on the phone for the last 20 minutes. How con you respond in an assertive manner?