


Additional slides will be revealed during the lecture.


**Interesting Cases
Interesting Problems**

Ron Roth, MD FACEP
Medical Director
City of Pittsburgh
Dept. of Public Safety




Former Member of the Penn State University Ambulance Service

**Faculty Advisor
University of Pittsburgh
Student EMS Initiative**



The cases you are about to see are true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent



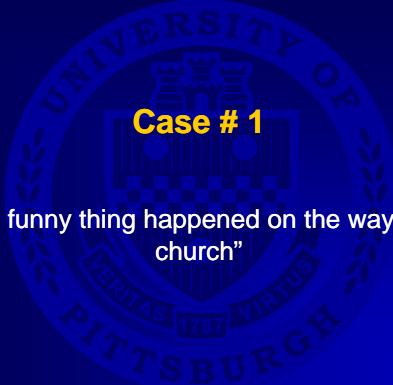
University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

You be the Judge!




Case # 1

“A funny thing happened on the way to church”




Case Presentation

- Paramedics Justin Time and Faye Kinnitt arrive on the scene of Wheelchair Van into a Utility Pole
- Van was en route to church
- Moderate front end damage
- Elderly female restrained in wheelchair denies injury or complaint
- EMS clears the scene



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

You be the Judge!



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Refusal

- Patients have the legal and moral right to refuse any or all treatment.
 - This is true even if the patient chooses to make a "bad decision" that may result in serious disability or even death
- However, patients must have decision-making capacity



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Who can refuse?

- >18yo old or emancipated minor
- Alert and oriented
- No suicidal ideation
- No intoxicants/drugs
- Normal Vitals
- Understands consequences of decision
- Can communicate consequences



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Can not refuse



- Condition that limits patient's ability to make decisions
- Hypoxia, hypothermia, hypotension, hypoglycemia, head injury, mental illness, etc.
- People who are just plain stupid can refuse as long as they DON'T meet the above criteria.



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Quick screen

- What would a reasonable person do in this same situation*
- What is the risk vs. benefit



*watch for cultural issues

University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Practical aspects

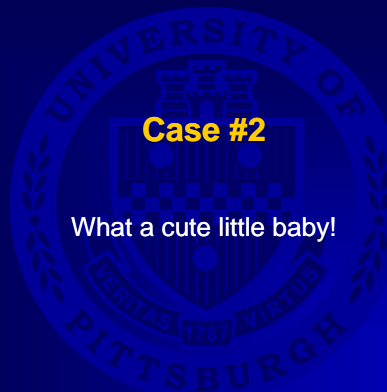
- The issue is not Black and White
- Get other people involved, friends family, police, family MD, etc.
- Spend time –talking/explaining
 - Exploit weaknesses
 - Why are they refusing?
- Explain options
 - Private transport, Call back...
- Contact command
- Document, Document, Document!!!!!!!!!!!!



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case #2

What a cute little baby!



Case Presentation

- EMTs Terry “Mama” Fie and Isabel Ringing are dispatched for a “child with a rash.”



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

EMS Evaluation

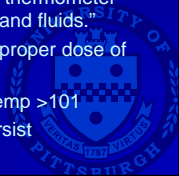
- Hx
 - Mother returned home from work today to find her 1 yo child with a rash on her arms
 - Child was cranky
 - ? Fever no thermometer
- PMHx
 - Normal birth
 - No meds or allergies



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

EMS evaluation continued....

- PE
 - 1yo female, in no distress
 - A pale red rash visible on both arms
- Rx
 - As per Mama Fie:
 - ◆ “Your child has a virus, go buy a thermometer and give the child some Tylenol and fluids.”
 - ◆ Helps child’s mom calculate the proper dose of Tylenol
 - ◆ Recommends sponge bath for temp >101
 - ◆ Call pediatrician if symptoms persist



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

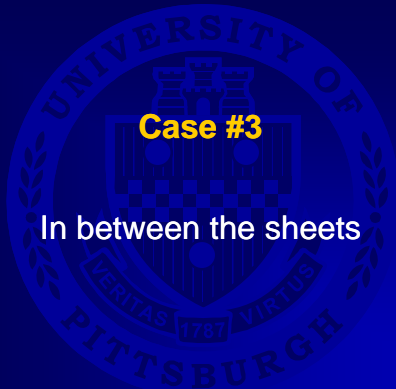
You be the Judge!



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case #3

In between the sheets



Case Presentation

- EMTs dispatched the home of an elderly male that fell
- Patient states he was getting out of bed when he became tangled in the sheets and fell



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

EMS Evaluation

- Elderly male entangled in sheets
- PMHx - none
- VS -stable
- Exam
 - 3cm facial/scalp laceration
 - Alert and talking
 - Moving all 4



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

EMS Treatment

- Head wound bandaged
- Transport on stretcher to Hospital
- Placed in wheelchair
- Taken into hospital



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

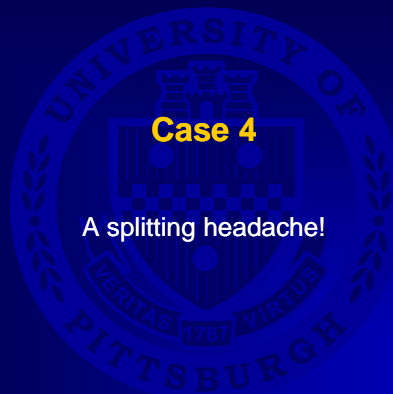
You be the Judge!



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case 4

A splitting headache!



Case Presentation

- Paramedic Oliver Sudden arrives on scene
- Scene Safe
- 19yo M GSW head
- Found prone on floor
- Large amounts of brain and blood on wall



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case continued

- No palpable pulses, agonal respirations
- EMS contacts command
 - Speak with Dr. Mal Practice MD-666
- Medic: “ I have never seen so much blood and brain in my life. Definitely not viable. Going to call DOA, but because of agonal respiration...”



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Doctors orders

- OK to withhold Rx
- Observe until agonal respirations stop
- Thanks for calling



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

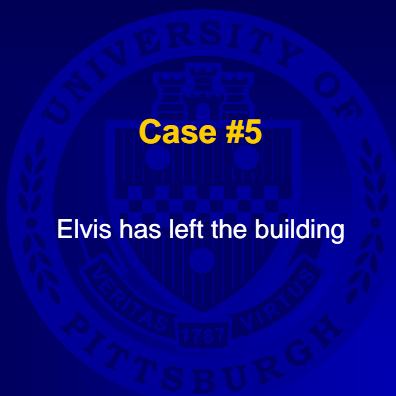
You be the Judge



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case #5

Elvis has left the building



Case presentation

- Paramedics Owen Monie and Ellie Kopter dispatched for an elderly male unconscious
- Greeted by a mentally challenged adult who says his father has been on the couch all day



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case continued

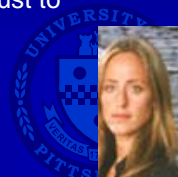
- History
 - not obtainable
- Physical
 - Elderly male unresponsive
 - No signs of life
 - Stiff/Blue



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Case continued

- Medic Monie calls for a police car and then begins to exit the house
- Medical back up arrives,
 - crew chief D.Z. Blonde
- D. Z. goes into the house “just to check it out.”



University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

Summary

- Important to learn from mistakes
 - Best if it's someone else's mistakes
- Identify causes and potential fixes
 - Knowledge, attitude, equipment, system
- Create systems that can identify errors
- Create systems that can prevent

University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program



THANK YOU!

University of Pittsburgh – Emergency Medicine Program

