

After Cardiac Catheterization

Cover catheter insertion site with an adhesive bandage strip and change daily for 2 days.

Keep site clean and dry. Avoid tub baths and swimming for several days; patient may shower or have a sponge bath.

Observe site for redness, swelling, drainage, and bleeding. Monitor for fever. Notify practitioner if these occur.

Encourage rest and quiet activities for the first 3 days and avoid strenuous exercise.

Discuss returning to school and resuming other activities with the practitioner.

Resume regular diet without restrictions.

Use acetaminophen for pain.

Keep follow-up appointments per practitioner's instruction.

Modified from Children's Hospital (Boston) Cardiovascular Program, 2012.

Critical Thinking Case Study

Cardiac Catheterization

Tommy, a 3-year-old boy with tetralogy of Fallot, has just returned to his hospital room from the cardiac catheterization recovery room. His mother calls you to the bedside to tell you that he is vomiting and bleeding. You arrive to find Tommy anxious, pale, crying, and sitting in a puddle of blood.

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence to draw conclusions about Tommy's situation?
2. Assumptions: Describe an underlying assumption about each of