ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF A COMATOSE PATIENT

There is very little to assess physically on the comatose patient but a history from the family or church members may give clear cut information on how things unfold. Patient is a known diabetic on insulin hence can be deduced that he went into hypoglycemic state. A quick head to toe assessment is done taking into consideration the level of consciousness of the patient

On assessment patient should be soaked in sweat, rapid heart rate and may look pale. The blood glucose is monitored and neurological assessment done to ascertain the extent of coma

In case of extreme hypoglycemia;

1. Set a line for the patient and administer 50mls of 50% dextrose in effect to correct glucose level
2. Glucagon can be given based on hospital policy on its management
3. Blood sugar is checked in 15-30mins to check the level and depending on the level 5% dextrose may be set up intravenously to support patient till full consciousness is regained
4. Continuous monitoring of the blood sugar is then done hourly or as directed.