

Case Study—Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Tyler, a 16-year-old recently diagnosed with Type I diabetes is admitted to the emergency department with multiple episodes of vomiting for the past two days. He complains of feeling “feverish” at home, being extremely thirsty, and having an occasional cough. Physical assessment reveals abdominal pain on palpation and a reported “cramping” throughout all four quadrants. His heart rate is 120 bpm with deep rapid respirations clear to auscultation.

His mother reports he has recently started dating and been promoted to varsity quarterback at school. She also states she has recently started night school in the evenings after work. Tyler’s home medications are 16U of 70/30 insulin in the morning and 12U of 70/30 insulin in the evening.

1. What are possible problems that this patient might have? What data supports these assumptions? What additional history and physical assessment data is warranted?
2. What laboratory tests would you expect to be ordered? Why?
3. How might the patient’s psychosocial history influence your thinking about the patient’s possible problems?
4. Considering only the data in presented in the case, identify a nursing diagnosis and develop a care plan. Include at least two teaching interventions with rationales.

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