**Ethical Concerns – Scenario #2**

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In the presented scenario, a 49-year old woman with advanced-stage cancer is admitted with cardiac arrest to the emergency department. Cardiac arrest is defined as a sudden state of failure in the circulatory system because of loss in systolic cardiac function (Andersen, Holmberg, Berg, Donnino, & Granfeldt, 2019). Since the patient has some underlying condition, advanced-stage cancer, an ethical dilemma exists on the type of care she will be given. For instance, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) performance on patients with advanced-stage cancer is a considerable clinical dilemma for patients, caregivers, and clinicians (Lee et al., 2019). CPR might not benefit the patient and may only cause psychological trauma for the patient's loved ones. In the given scenario, the dilemma is even widened based on who is to make a decision. This is because the patient had been accompanied by the husband and one of her children. Thus, it is necessary to obtain some useful additional information throughout the assessment and diagnostic tests according to evidence-based practice as an advanced nurse.

It is vital to have some additional information concerning the patient through the health assessment and diagnostic tests. Specifically, the physical examination and history of the patient will be critical. This includes family history on the sudden cardiac arrest, palpitations or chest pain, and pulmonary disease. Before the diagnostic test or assessment is done, the husband will be asked if the wife had an advance directive, how long the patient has been unconscious, and what she was doing before becoming unresponsive. To further ensure that the patient's wishes are considered in the treatment decision to be made, it will also be helpful to ask about the specific desires that they had before she became unresponsive. Furthermore, the husband will be asked if there is any medication that the patient was receiving.

With the explanation to the husband, I will administer CPR and other measures that could save a life until it is established that there is advance directive or until the husband decides that the family wants to discontinue the resuscitative efforts. It can also be overwhelming to make end-of-life decisions for the family. Therefore, if there is no advance directive, it will be worth considering the person responsible for considering how the end-of-life care will be administered.

In a normal situation, if someone with advanced-stage cancer survives cardiac arrest, the doctor will need to learn the possible causes. This is to prevent the occurrence in the future (Pulavskyi, Krivenko, & Kryvenko, 2018). Therefore, various tests may be recommended. The first is an electrocardiogram (ECG) to test if the heart's electrical activity is attached to the chest or the limps (Pulavskyi et al., 2018). Another diagnostic investigation is complete blood count (CBC) to help detect various blood disorders such as clotting, anemia, problems with the immune system, and blood cancers (Pulavskyi et al., 2018). Arterial blood gas (ABG) test will also be done to detect the duration of cardiac arrest (Pulavskyi et al., 2018). Additionally, cardiac MRI will also be conducted to help monitor the cardiac disease by monitoring the functioning of the heart's chambers, heart valves, surrounding structures, and blood flow in major vessels (Painchaud et al., 2019). Lastly, an electrophysiologic study will be done to assess the heart's electrical system and monitor any abnormal rhythms in the heart (Paech, Wagner, Strehlow, & Gebauer, 2019). These tests will ascertain the right place to take the patient.

Based on what has been detected from the diagnostic tests, the advanced practice nurse will handle the situation. The steps for acting include shouting for help, assessing the patient, checking the life signs, assess ABC, and monitor while giving oxygen. In case of absence, after discussing with the husband, the advanced practice nurse will start the CPR and provide 30 compressions with two breathe. It will also be appropriate to apply defibrillator pads and offer advanced life support. All these services will be mutually agreed upon by the advanced practice nurse and the husband to the patient.

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