

Skeletal System Case Study

Mrs. Jones' Case: "Old Bones"

OVERVIEW:

Mrs. Jones, a 75-year old woman is admitted arrives at the hospital complaining of an extremely sore hip after a recent fall.

GOALS:

1. Draft hypotheses that logically explain data. (Assessment: Diff. Diagnosis)
2. Access & analyze data using aligned and appropriate tests. (Objective)
3. Propose a data-driven conclusion to a complex problem. (Plan: Diagnosis)

ROLES:

You are a team of health professionals composed of a **geriatrician**, specializing in the care of elderly people, and **orthopedist**, specializing in the musculoskeletal system, an **exercise physiologist**, trained to assess and recommend physical activity regimens for patients, and a **social worker**, focused on the unique needs of seniors in the healthcare system.

OBJECTIVE:

Obj. 14.2: Identify the structures, functions, and pathophysiology of the skeletal system.

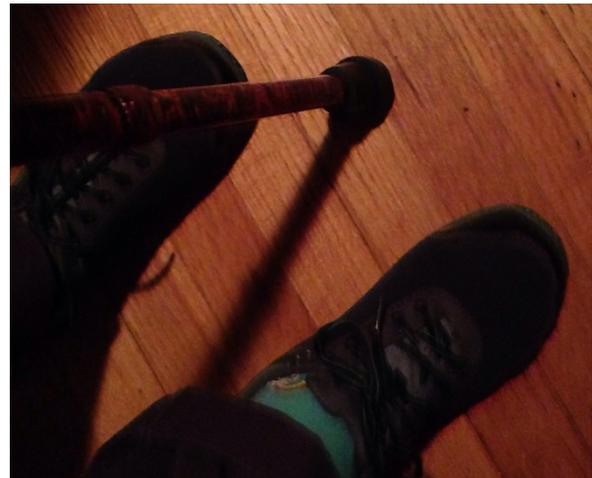
DELIVERABLES:

- 1) SOAP Note
- 2) Pre-Assessment Guiding Questions

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Objective Section: 1) organized & recorded clearly & accurately; 2) minimum of 2 appropriate and aligned tests/labs selected, including explanation of purpose, expected results, & analysis of actual results

Assessment Section: 1) minimum of 3 possible hypothesized diseases/conditions aligned with data, with brief explanation of each disease & rationale; 2) clear conclusion (final diagnosis) based on 3+ pieces of supporting evidence (at least one must be quantitative) & logical reasoning



Health Care Provider Roles:

Determine the role of each team member. Then write down at least two questions that each healthcare provider might be interested in asking the patient, based on his or her focus area or specialty.

Team Member	Role	Focus Area	Questions for Mrs. Jones:
	Geriatrician	medical care for the elderly	
	Orthopedist	musculo-skeletal system	
	Exercise Physiologist	exercise & physical activity	
	Social Worker	holistic needs of elderly people	

Case Study Steps:

- _____ 1. Review the coversheet & ask questions for clarification.
- _____ 2. Assign team roles. Discuss what how you will carry out these roles to make an effective team.
- _____ 3. Document information from the nurse's note in the SOAP note. Prepare 10 questions (write them out) to interview the patient. Prioritize your top 3 to ask.
- _____ 4. Document patient information during interview in the SOAP.
- _____ 5. Complete the *Pre-Assessment Guiding Questions*.
- _____ 6. Research possible diagnoses and labs/tests to run in order to develop a differential diagnosis list.
- _____ 7. Write out your SOAP **Assessment** for Mrs. Jones, including differential diagnosis, labs and tests, and final diagnosis. You may request ONE lab test result by submitting it to the Lab Tech (your instructor).
- _____ 8. Research information on the care and treatment of the diagnosed illness, condition, or disease.
- _____ 9. Create a brief **Plan** for Mrs. Jones, addressing the 3 most important components of her treatment plan.

Nurse Notes:

“Ms. Thelma Jones is a 75-year-old widow, complaining of severe right hip pain following a fall this morning. She reports moderate back pain for the past year. She measures at 5'3" and weighs 102 pounds. Her temp is 98.6, pulse 84, and blood pressure 130/80, and her respiratory rate is 18. Ms. Jones' pain description indicates that the pain appears to originate in her sacral and lumbar regions and migrate upward toward the cervical region and throughout her pelvis. A black and blue contusion is visible on her upper right hip.

Vitals & Measurements from Ms. Jones physical 11 months ago:

Height: 5'4
Weight: 108 lb.
HR: 65 bpm
RR: 15 breaths/min
BP: 120/90
Temp: 98.2 degrees F

SOAP Note	
Subjective:	
Signs & Symptoms	
Allergies	
Medications	
Past medical history	
Last oral intake	
Events leading to injury or illness	
Frequency	
Associated Symptoms	
Radiation	
Character	
Onset	
Location	
Duration	
Exacerbating Factors	
Relieving Factors	

Objective:	
Measurements	
Vital Signs	
Exam Results	
Lab Results	

Assessment:

Summary	
Differential Diagnoses	
Final Diagnosis	<p><i>Claim (Diagnosis):</i></p> <p><i>Evidence:</i></p> <p><i>Reasoning:</i></p>

Plan:

<p>Steps of Plan</p> <p><i>(Consider mental, social and physical health; short- and long-term needs, and follow-up care required)</i></p>	
--	--

Pre-Assessment Guiding Questions:

1. Which bones are the source of the pain, based on Mrs. Jones' description of her pain? Refer to terminology from the nurses note to describe where the regions are located as well.
2. What are the functions of the skeletal system? Which functions are related to Mrs. Jones condition?
3. What changes in the skeletal system occur as a person ages?
4. How are exercise and diet related to bone health? What recommendations would you give Mrs. Jones in relation to exercise and diet?
5. Name & describe some common diseases, conditions, or disorders of the skeletal system.

Research on Differential Diagnoses:

Team Member	Differential Diagnosis to Research	Notes: Explanation of disease, labs/tests to confirm/ rule out diagnosis, etc.

Research on Treatment Plan:

As a team, decide how to best conduct research, share information, and make decisions on the treatment plan for Mrs. Jones. Use the box below and any additional paper for your notes.

Research Notes: