

It's Your Call - Scenario

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Medic unit requested at 4306 Blitzen Blvd. to assist with a sixty-seven-year-old female who is “acting funny, and not talking right”. Upon your arrival, you are welcomed into a house of crowded and concerned family members who are in the spirit of giving, with information. You are led to the living room where you find an older female, who is conscious and alert, and breathing at a steady, increased rate. She makes eye contact with you as you approach her; she appears agitated. Her head is cocked to the left side; her tongue is sticking out of her mouth. She taps her right foot, seemingly impatient and begins to drool. She is having a difficult time speaking to you, so her brother and nephew tell you that she had just eaten a piece of fruit cake, and washed it down with a glass of eggnog about a half hour ago. She doesn't have a medical history that they are aware of, but she had been seeing the same psychiatrist for years because she has some “mental issues”. She had to start seeing a new doctor recently because her old one had retired. When you asked about allergies, her brother couldn't recall her having any but he couldn't be sure. When you ask if she is taking medications, they hand over a bottle of *haloperidol* with only two pills left; her brother insists that she is compliant with the recommended dose. Her relatives assure you that although she may be “a little off,” she's never acted like this before. Her vitals: R 20; BP 116/74; P 92 strong and regular; skin pink, warm and moist.

What can cause your patient to act this way?

What dangers face your patient if her symptoms are not taken seriously?

What is your first concern for this patient?

How are you going to treat this patient?