

Review Article

A Nursing Diagnosis: Autonomic Dysreflexia

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Abstract

Autonomic dysreflexia (AD) is a common problem in patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) above the T6 neurologic level and may cause serious medical complications if untreated. Autonomic dysreflexia is a nursing diagnosis in North American Nursing Diagnosis Association' Taxonomy. Healthcare professionals' responsibility to have a basic understanding of the pathophysiology of the condition and the simple steps required to treat it. Many health care professionals are unfamiliar with either symptoms or causes of autonomic dysreflexia or its appropriate management. Patient and family education about Autonomic dysreflexia is the most important.

Key Words: Autonomic dysreflexia, nursing diagnosis, spinal cord injury.