

ABS: Jack

Jack is a 19 year old who sustained a TBI as the result of an automobile accident. He is currently receiving rehabilitation at an inpatient facility. The following is a description of his behavior on Day 5 of the inpatient stay.

Jack is laying in his bed first thing in the morning. He is in a friendly, pleasant mood, though he is slightly restless. He moves about more than normal, but is able to focus on meaningful activities. He is attending to the nurse as she sets up his breakfast, moving his arm out of the way so that she can set down the tray on the bedtable. He picks up his fork and begins to scoop up some eggs, when he spots someone walking by his room. He yells out, "Hey you! Help me!" He sounds quite upset. The nurse moves closer to his side, blocking his view of the hall, and points at his breakfast, asking "Are you going to eat some of that breakfast?" He begins to resume eating, though he is still upset. He is completely calm in another few minutes, resuming his previous friendly mood.

After breakfast, the nurse helps him to dress. She holds the garment for him as he puts his limbs in the various openings. He proceeds with the task calmly at first, but then he becomes frustrated and upset due to difficulty getting his left arm into his shirt. After two tries, he yells out and tries to grab the shirt to fling it away from him. The nurse attempts to guide his arm through the opening again, but he pushes her away, yelling and clearly upset. He refuses to continue dressing and says that he wants to go back to bed. When the nurse attempts to go near him again, he again starts to push her. The nurse steps away for a few moments, busying herself at the sink. She then re-introduces the shirt and physically guides his arm through the opening. He no longer resists and is cooperative.

The nurse then brings the wheelchair closer to the bed. Before she can lock the brakes and move the footrests aside, Jack stands and begins to make a move to get in the chair. The nurse says, "Wait, the footrests need to be moved." Jack allows her to guide him back to the bed, then she puts on the brakes and moves the footrests. After her cue, he gets into the chair.

The nurse tells Jack that it is time to go to Physical Therapy and they proceed down the hall to the elevators. Just as they pass the nurses' station, the unit clerk tells them that Physical Therapy has been cancelled. The nurse pauses, but Jack continues to move toward the elevator. The nurse steps up to him and tells him that the therapy has been cancelled. He becomes angry and yells. The nurse pushes his chair into the dayroom and after a few minutes he calms down and joins in conversation with the nurse and other patients about football. At one point in the conversation, he asks when he is going to Physical Therapy. The nurse tells him that he will be going in the afternoon and then redirects him back to the conversation. He continues to talk with the other patients about favorite teams for a few moments and then asks about Physical Therapy again. He is successfully redirected back to the conversation.

A few minutes later, he begins to pull at the seatbelt in his wheelchair. He discontinues the pulling in a few seconds, without cueing. After several minutes have past, he begins to wheel himself out of the dayroom. The nurse indicates that he needs to stay in the dayroom until his next therapy session, and he complies. A few minutes later, he again moves toward the door, but responds once again to cueing to remain in the room.

Answer Key for “Jack”

Item	Score
1	3
2.	3 (could also be a 2, need to determine which was most typical for that day)
3.	3
4.	3
5.	3
6.	1
7.	2
8.	3
9.	2
10.	3
11.	1
12.	3
13.	1
14.	1