

## A Tale of Two Patients in ICU

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He was in the ICU for 2 months. His recovery from tetanus was slow but steady. However, he looked depressed all the time as he was very active before the illness and for last few days he was not communicating with family and hospital staff. His parents and siblings were worried as well as the doctors because his will power was decreasing with time.

The alarms wake him up. Drs and staff were busy doing CPR on an old man lying just infront of his bed. The event was short and the doctors declared his death. It was a routine for usman now. He closed his eyes and went back to sleep.

Next morning he woke up and found a beautiful girl lying on his opposite bed. She was brought from Rawalakot, Kashmir with Guillain-Barre syndrome. She was looking scared and agitated. He waved his hand to her. He wrote something on his notebook and asked nurse to show to new patient.

"Calm down lady, everything will be fine.

I'm here for 2 months and doing great. These people are good professionals. You are safe here".

"No need of sedation. She looks calm and cooperative now". said duty Dr.

It was the beginning of a wonderful relationship.

She was too weak to write as her limbs were paralyzed but responded by head nodding.

For the first time in 2 months, Usman was looking active and looked like his will power has come back.

"I want to stand" said usman during morning round.

"We will try to make you stand and mobilize you in this week".

"When I get rid of this airpipe(tracheostomy)?"

"Very soon" said the doctor.

“And that girl!! What’s wrong with her and will she be able to make it through”.

Asked usman.

“Why are you asking about her?”

“Do you know her”. said doctor

“Just asking. Nothing special”. said usman.

“You never asked about anyone else before”. the nurses smiled and went to next bed without giving any answers.

The girl was sleeping. Maybe sedatives or she’s just tired.

Days passed. Her third session of plasmapheresis was over. She could move her hands. The family just left.

He woke up in afternoon. She was looking good as she had some lipstick, mascara and blush-ons.

She asked for a marker and whiteboard.

“How are you”.

She displayed the board towards him.

“I’m good. How are you doing”? Asked boy.

“What’s your disease”. Asked girl.

“I have tetanus but now I’m recovering well and you???”.

“I have a strange disease they call GBS. They are not sure whether I will make it or not”. Said girl.

“I know you will”. Boy responded with a sinister smile.

“How would you know about it?” Asked girl.

“Because, because you’re so pretty”. Answered the boy, chuckles....

“No really, I just know because in last 2 months I ‘ve seen many people with GBS. All of them become fine. That old lady on last bed also had GBS. It’s common” said the boy.

They talk and talk all day all night writing on whiteboards and ICU staff doctors everyone was amazed as they haven’t seen anything like this before.

MIDNIGHT..

He woke up by continuous alarms of ventilator and cardiac monitors. The Drs and staff surrounded her bed. Her pink face was pale and doctor was listening to her breath sounds.

"I think it's the ventilator. Take her on Ambu bag immediately" said doctor.

"Hmm; you maybe right doctor but ventilator is making tidal volume on test-lung. And her sats are dropping".

said nurse.

"Ok call portable X-ray, repeat gases. Attach her to ventilator again". said Doctor.

"No sir, still tidal volume is low". said nurse.

Call Dr Adam and tell him to get here as fast as he can.

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"Ask the loverboy to keep himself calm, pull the curtains". Doctor.

Her colour was turning bluish.

Dr. Adam arrived and took hold of the situation.

Back-up ventilator was brought and attached.

The ventilator was working fine.

"Keep her sedated and on ACMV till tomorrow morning". Ordered Dr Adam.

Then he saw usman waving his hand to him.

"Yes, what's your problem?" Asked Dr.A dam

"Will she survive?" his eyes were filled with tears.

"God knows. She had very low oxygen left when I saw her. Just pray. We are doing the best we could". Dr. Adam.

Two days passed. She didn't open her eyes and usman didn't close his. All the time he was staring at her and praying.

On third day she was moving her neck.

The nurse was calling her by name.

"Open your eyes anila. C'mon good girl!".

And she hardly opened her eyes a bit and closed again.

She woke up after few hours.

Doctors examined her. She was looking fine.

She waved at usman. He started writing.

“Are you ok? Do you remember me?” Asked usman.

She replied.

Usman took a deep breath and closed his eyes, lied down and slept.

1 year and 6 months later..

Someone was continuously ringing the ICU call bell.

“What’s your emergency?” asked ward boy.

“I’m usman and I want to meet Doctors and nurses”.

“The doctors are in morning meeting and you wait”.

“Just give these sweets to Dr Adam and tell him I’m usman who was admitted here with tetanus. We are so thankful to all of ICU”.

“Ok wait. Give it yourself”. said ward boy and called Dr. H.

“So many sweets??? who will eat them. what are they for” asked Dr. H.

“Sir I’m blessed with a beautiful daughter today and me, anila and our whole family just want to thank you all”.

“Well congratulations and best wishes for your married life”.

.....The end.

(Based on true events)

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