



## Acute Respiratory Arrest

Last week a patient in her late 50s (who has everything wrong with her including cardiac, respiratory, blood sugar, blood pressure, etc,etc.) came in for treatment and proceeded to go into acute respiratory distress in the waiting room.

I immediately put her into a treatment room and watched with apprehension as her respirations became shallower and shallower with increasing wheezing. As I was palpating for the contact point, I was taking a little extra time to be sure of my contact, while thoughts of "If this doesn't open her up immediately, I wonder how long it will take to get an ambulance here?"

In a few minutes the procedure was complete "There you go, that should do it"...sit patient up...full deep breaths with slight wheeze at the end for the first 4 seconds, then clear...wide eyed... patient exclamations of "Oh my God! I can breathe again! I can take full breaths, and other such comments followed by numerous extolments all the way into the waiting room...me getting a little uncomfortable under the constant barrage of praise..."Well, that's what happens when you turn the power back on"...looks of wide-eyed astonishment from the rest of the waiting room...patient continuing to tell everyone else "I can't believe it, I couldn't breathe, look what he did, I can breathe,etc, etc, etc...Looks like this is going to be a good day..."Next"

...GF, DC