PEDIATRIC CASE STUDY: MYELOMENINGOCELE

SITUATION:

While in utero, Paul was diagnosed as having a spina bifida. As a result, he was delivered at term by cesarean section. Because of his medical diagnosis of myelomeningocele, he was transported to a children’s hospital within an hour after birth. His father and grandparents accompany him.

1. What diagnostic tests alerted Paul’s mother and doctor of the presence of spina bifida?

2. Define:
   - spina bifida
   - meningocele
   - myelomeningocele

3. How can the nurse be of immediate help with regard to the grief felt by Paul’s family because of his defect?

4. How will the nurse care for Paul preoperatively?

5. How will the nurse care for Paul postoperatively?

6. Throughout his life, Paul will have alterations in the achievement of developmental milestones, locomotion, and toilet training. What information will the nurse give Paul’s family as anticipatory guidance regarding these areas?

7. Paul will utilize the services of many specialized resources in the community. What are some of Paul’s special needs throughout his life? What services will he utilize?