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25 year-old got admitted to my ICU for COVID. Had to be bag-masked on her way to the hospital. On NIPPV, she was breathing at 60-70/min. She was awake, scared out of her wits.

I asked if she had been vaccinated. She shook her head.

"I will get it... when I'm... better." (1)

She uttered between breaths. I nodded. I knew she meant it.

"I think you'll need a breathing tube and a ventilator soon. Your breathing muscles can't go on like this." I said without as little as a twitch on my face- a conversation I'm... (2)

... very used to having by now.

She looked at me briefly, and nodded.

"Will you... be doing it?" She asked through the mask, gasping.

"Yes." I nodded back.

She reached out with her hand and held mine. We stared into each other's eyes for a few seconds. (3)

"I'll do my best." I told her.

I let go and left her room.

I had to.

Within an hour, she was intubated, sedated, on a ventilator- high PEEP, high FiO₂, with an arterial line in place. Given her oliguric AKI, I think she'll need renal replacement therapy soon. (4)

And, I fear it won't be long before she becomes a statistic, a number in the roster of COVID victims, a gauge of the unfolding tragedy, through which we've striven to keep ourselves sane.

I hope I'm wrong. (End)

#COVID19 #GetVaccinatedNow #MedTwitter #PCCMTwitter

I appreciate the attention this thread generated. As of today, the patient in question remains critically ill with a very high risk of mortality.

I do request everyone to follow **#SocialDistancing** norms, wear **#Masks**, and most importantly, get **#Vaccinated** and **#Boosted**.

