Woman Collapses While Doing Yard Work Case Study

In July of 2002, a 55-year-old woman was brought into a Lane County, Oregon, hospital

emergency room. She was unconscious, with low blood pressure and an irregular heart rhythm. Emergency room personnel observed that she had hives all over her body, that she had swelling or edema in her arms and legs, and that her tongue was swollen.

The woman’s daughter reported that she and her mother had been doing yard work outside,

trimming a hedge beside the mother’s house. Her mother gave a sudden shout, took three steps, and collapsed. The daughter immediately called 911, and paramedics arrived within 5 minutes.

Soon after doctors started attending to the woman, her heart stopped. After 30 minutes of treatment, her heart rhythm returned, but the time without blood flow caused her to suffer

a massive stroke and she never regained consciousness. Her family elected to disconnect her

from life support 4 days later.

* *What happened to the woman that led to her death? Why would this event cause death?*