SEIZURES

MODULE: CRITICAL INCIDENTS

TARGET: ANAESTHETISTS, INTENSIVISTS, EMERGENCY, ACUTE PHYSICIANS & FOUNDATION DOCTORS

BACKGROUND:

Management of seizures and status epilepticus is a core skill common to the acute medical specialties. Management should include consideration of underlying causes and treatment should follow established algorithms. If airway protection is required then an anaesthetic technique which shows evidence of limiting increases in intracranial pressure should be undertaken.

RELEVANT AREAS OF THE ANAESTHETIC CURRICULUM

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<th>Demonstrates effective pre-oxygenation, including correct use of the mask, head position and clear explanation to the patient.</th>
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| IG_BS_08          | In respect of intravenous induction:  
|                   | - Makes necessary explanation to patient  
|                   | - Demonstrates satisfactory preparation of drugs for induction of anaesthesia  
|                   | - Demonstrates proper technique in injecting drugs for induction of anaesthesia  
|                   | - Manages the cardiovascular and respiratory changes associated with induction of general anaesthesia |
| IG_BS_10 AM_BS_05 | In respect of airway management:  
|                   | - Demonstrates optimal patient position for airway management.  
|                   | - Manages airway with mask and oral/nasopharyngeal airways  
|                   | - Demonstrates hand ventilation with bag and mask  
|                   | - Able to insert and confirm placement of a Laryngeal Mask Airway  
|                   | - Demonstrates correct head positioning, direct laryngoscopy and successful nasal/oral intubation techniques  
|                   | - Confirms correct tracheal tube placement  
|                   | - Demonstrates correct use of bougies  
|                   | - Demonstrates correct securing and protection of LMA/tracheal tubes during movement, positioning and transfer |
| CI_BK_12          | Convulsions |
| CI_BS_01          | Demonstrates good non-technical skills such as: [effective communication, team-working, leadership, decision-making and maintenance of high situation awareness] |
| CI_BS_02          | Demonstrates the ability to recognise early a deteriorating situation by careful monitoring |
| CI_BS_03          | Demonstrates the ability to respond appropriately to each incident listed above |
| CI_BS_04          | Shows how to initiate management of each incident listed above |
| CI_BS_05          | Demonstrates ability to recognise when a crisis is occurring |
| CI_BS_06          | Demonstrates how to obtain the attention of others and obtain appropriate help when a crisis is occurring |
| 3.1               | Manages the care of the critically ill patient with specific acute medical conditions |
| 3.6               | Recognises and manages the patient with neurological impairment |
| NA_IS_07          | Demonstrates the ability to resuscitate, stabilise and transfer patients with brain injury safely |
INFORMATION FOR FACULTY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Differential diagnosis of the fitting patient
- Management of seizures
- Limiting surges in intracranial pressure

SCENE INFORMATION:

- Location: Resus

This scenario takes place in ED resus. It can form the basis of a joint training scenario for Foundation, ED, ICU, Anaesthetic or ACCS trainees. The initial patient assessment could be performed by a Foundation or ED trainee, who would be expected to call for anaesthetic or ICU support to secure the airway prior to transfer to the CT scanner.

EQUIPMENT & CONSUMABLES

Manikin – On resus trolley.
Checked anaesthetic machine
Stocked Airway trolley
  - Laryngoscopes (2 x Macintosh)
  - ET Tubes (Various Sizes)
  - OP, NP and Advanced Supraglottic airways (iGels, LMAs)
Simulated Anaesthetic drugs
Plan D equipment, either:
  - Scalpel and #6 COETT
  - Ravussin needle and Manujet (or local equipment)
Self-inflating Bag-valve-mask
Portable ventilator/anaesthetic machine

PERSONS REQUIRED

Anaesthetic/ACCS junior trainee
Resus nurse
Anaesthetic Senior Trainee
ED Trainee (Optional)
**PARTICIPANT BRIEFING: (TO BE READ ALOUD TO PARTICIPANT)**

**Foundation/ED/ACCS Trainee:**
- This patient has been brought in by ambulance with a severe headache. The patient is in ED Resus. Please perform the initial assessment of the patient and proceed as you feel appropriate.

**Anaesthetic Trainee:**
- You are the on-call anaesthetic/ITU SHO. You have been called to see a patient in ED Resus.

**‘VOICE OF MANIKIN’ BRIEFING:**

Underlying pathology is a subarachnoid haemorrhage, but history is intentionally vague with several possibilities (including other types of intracranial bleeds, meningitis or encephalitis etc).

You are initially drowsy. Speech starts to slow and slur. After a few minutes the situation deteriorates with falling consciousness and development of seizures.

**Headache History:**
- Headache for a couple of hours, onset over about 5 mins.
- Pain around whole head but worse at the back of the head. Also goes down neck and into shoulders.
- Nausea and vomiting for last 1 hour.
- Uncomfortable in lit environment, prefer the room dim. Neck feels stiff.
- Recent cold (runny nose, fevers and shivers – mild) in the last few days.
- Fit and well usually except for high blood pressure treated with amlodipine and ramipril.
- Independent.
- No-one else in household ill.
- No previous operations. No allergies

**OTHER IN-SCENARIO PERSONNEL BRIEFING:**

**ED Nurse**
- You have basic airway skills and are a skilled assistant during intubation.
CONDUCT OF SCENARIO

INITIAL SETTINGS
A: Patient and Self-maintained
B: RR 18/min, SpO2 97% on air
C: HR 95. BP 165/85.
D: Drowsy. Eyes half open. Pupils equal.
E: Few mins for history taking, but progressive drowsiness and slurred speech develop

ONSET OF SEIZURES
A: Tongue falls back. Trismus
B: SpO2 fall to 92% unless airway inserted.
C: HR 90 VT. BP 110/65.
D: Eyes closed. Seizures start. Pupils equal.

ONGOING SEIZURES
D: Seizures will intermittently stop for a few seconds, but no recovery of consciousness inbetween fits.
E: Blood sugar 5.6

EXPECTED ACTIONS
• Repeat Benzodiazepine administration after 10 mins
• Load with Phenytoin 18mg/kg, 50mg/min ot Fosphenytoin equivalent dose
• Call for Anaesthetic/ICU Support
• Consider recovery position

LOW DIFFICULTY
Seizures cease with Phenytoin loading
Patient stable,

NORMAL DIFFICULTY
Need for anaesthetic intervention – controlled RSI with ICP-limiting technique
Neuroprotective measures

HIGH DIFFICULTY
Post-induction RHS pupil blown.
Mannitol administration +/- Thiopentone boluses.
Package for CT & Neurosurgical referral

RESOLUTION
Seizures controlled (Medical management or induced anaesthesia)
Clear plan for appropriate further management.
DEBRIEFING

POINTS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Technical:
• Management of seizures in adults.
• Emergency induction in the potentially brain-injured patient
• Physiology of intracranial pressure – and limiting surges in ICP
• Principles of intra-hospital transfer

Non-technical:
• Situation awareness
• Prioritisation
• Leadership
• Team working and task management

DEBRIEFING RESOURCES

SIGN Guideline 70: Diagnosis and Management of Epilepsy in Adults. Updated Oct 2005. Page 7 of quick reference guide has Status epilepticus algorithm
http://www.sign.ac.uk/guidelines/fulltext/70/index.html


AAGBI Guideline: Recommendations for the Safe Transfer of Patients with Brain Injury. 2006 Aimed at safe interhospital transfer, but very relevant information for intrahospital transfer.
http://www.aagbi.org/sites/default/files/braininjury.pdf
INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

KEY POINTS:
- Differential diagnosis of the fitting patient
- Management of Status Epilepticus
- Limiting increases in intracranial pressure

RELEVANCE TO AREAS OF THE ANAESTHETIC CURRICULUM

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WORKPLACE-BASED ASSESSMENTS

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PARTICIPANT REFLECTION:

What have you learnt from this experience? (Please try to list 3 things)

How will your practice now change?

What other actions will you now take to meet any identified learning needs?
PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Date of training session: ......................................................................................................................

Profession and grade: ..............................................................................................................................

What role(s) did you play in the scenario? (Please tick)

- Primary/Initial Participant
- Secondary Participant (e.g. ‘Call for Help’ responder)
- Other health care professional (e.g. nurse/ODP)
- Other role (please specify):
- Observer

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<th></th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neither agree nor disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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<td>I understand more about the scenario subject</td>
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<td>I have more confidence to deal with this scenario</td>
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Please write down one thing you have learned today, and that you will use in your clinical practice.

How could this scenario be improved for future participants?
(This is especially important if you have ticked anything in the disagree/strongly disagree box)
FACULTY DEBRIEF – TO BE COMPLETED BY FACULTY TEAM

What went particularly well during this scenario?

What did not go well, or as well as planned?

Why didn’t it go well?

How could the scenario be improved for future participants?