

The management of patients with TSS is the same as management of shock of any cause and may range from supportive care in mild cases to hospitalization and intensive care in severe cases.

Appropriate parenteral antibiotics are usually administered after cultures are obtained.

Nursing Care Management

Because the disease is relatively rare, the major efforts of nursing are directed toward prevention. The association between the disease and the use of tampons provides some direction for education. Avoiding the use of tampons offers the most certain preventive measure, although this approach is probably unacceptable to most adolescent girls, who prefer the freedom, comfort, and inconspicuousness that tampons afford.

Adolescent girls who use tampons can be taught general hygiene measures, such as good hand washing and careful insertion to avoid vaginal abrasion. It is wise to modify their use, alternating with sanitary napkins—perhaps using the napkins during the night, when at home during the day, and when flow is slight. Young girls are advised not to use super-absorbent tampons and not to leave any tampon in the body for more than 4 to 6 hours.

NCLEX Review Questions

1. You are working with a new graduate on the pediatric unit and your patient is returning from the cardiac catheterization lab. You feel the graduate understands the important nursing interventions when she says which of the following? Select all that apply.
 - a. "Check pulses especially below the catheterization site, for equality and symmetry."
 - b. "Check vital signs, which may be taken as frequently as every 30 to 45 minutes, with special emphasis on the heart rate, which is counted for 1 full minute for evidence of dysrhythmias or bradycardia."
 - c. "Special attention needs to be given to the BP, especially for hypertension, which may indicate hemorrhage or bleeding from the catheterization site."