

and guilt that it is important for families to know that they are not alone. They should be reminded frequently that people are available to assist them through the crisis. Additional sources of support include psychiatric and social work consultants, community services, and religious support. Self-help groups may be beneficial if available in the community.

Nurses often have difficulty relating to the parents if obvious neglect has precipitated the accident and subsequent problems; therefore, it is important for those who care for these children and their families to assess their own feelings about the situation, in addition to assessing the family's coping abilities and resources. Caring for victims of a submersion injury and their families requires nurses to be sensitive to the needs of the child and family and to recognize his or her own reactions and emotions.

Prevention

Most submersion injuries are preventable. The most common cause of submersion injury of infants and young children is inadequate adult supervision, including a momentary lapse of supervision (Weiss, 2010). Close adult supervision of infants and children around any body of water is essential and should include the adult not engaging in any distracting activities. Other strategies include environmental prevention strategies, such as pool fencing, pool covers, water-entry alarms, and lifeguard and individual prevention, such as swimming and survival skills, cardiopulmonary resuscitation training, and the use of personal floatation devices (Weiss, 2010). (See also Injury Prevention, Chapters 9, 11, 12, 14, and 15.)

Intracranial Infections

The nervous system is subject to infection by the same organisms that affect other organs of the body. However, the nervous system is limited in the ways in which it responds to injury. Laboratory studies are needed to identify the causative agent. The inflammatory process can affect the meninges (meningitis) or brain (encephalitis).

Meningitis can be caused by a variety of organisms, but the three main types are (1) bacterial, or pyogenic, caused by pus-forming