

Chapter 21

Croup Syndrome

1. Evidence: Yes, there are sufficient data to arrive at a possible conclusion in this situation.
2. Assumptions:
 - a. Epiglottitis is a serious obstructive inflammatory process that occurs predominantly in children 2 to 5 years old.
 - b. Symptoms of epiglottitis start with a sore throat and pain on swallowing, then progresses to restlessness, drooling, and prefers preference to sit upright rather than lie down.
 - c. Because epiglottitis can quickly progress to severe respiratory distress, the nurse should never examine the child's throat with a tongue depressor or take a throat culture.
 - d. Nursing interventions for the child with epiglottitis include monitoring the child's respiratory status, allowing the child to remain in the position that is most comfortable, preparing to administer a racemic epinephrine (nebulized) aerosol treatment, having emergency airway equipment available, and assisting with insertion of an intravenous line and administration of antibiotics.
3. The suspicion of epiglottitis constitutes an emergency. The priorities for nursing care at this time are to maintain the child's