

## HISTORY

HPC

- Duration symptoms
- Speed of onset: Sudden / Gradual
- Seizures
- Fevers
- Head trauma
- Meningitic symptoms: Neck stiffness / Photophobia
- Recent sedative medications
- Drug overdose / Alcohol
- Collateral history if possible

PMH

- COPD: CO<sub>2</sub> retainer
- Diabetic: Control / Previous Hypoglycaemia
- Epileptic: Recent seizure activity
- Stroke risk factors: Stroke or TIA / AF / Hypertension
- CKD
- Liver disease

DH

- Diabetic medications: Insulin / Hypoglcaemia
- Epileptic medications: Missed doses
- Anticoagulants
- Sedatives
- Opiates
- New medications

SH / FH

- Alcohol status: Excessive / Sudden abstinence
- Illicit drug use

## EXAMINATION

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Seizure
- Facial drop
- Trunk hypotonia: leaning to one side
- Limb hypotonia: limb appears flaccid / neglect
- Patient cyanosed
- Jaundiced

AIRWAY

- Ensure airway patent

BREATHING

- Physical Observation: FiO<sub>2</sub> / RR / SaO<sub>2</sub>
- Auscultation: Wheeze / Crackles / Air entry

CIRCULATION

- Physical Observation: HR / BP

DISABILITY

- Physical Observation: Temp
- CBG: Normal / Hypoglycaemic
- GCS: >8 / ≤8
- Pupils: Normal / Constricted / Dilated / Reactive
- Cranial nerve exam: Slurred speech / Facial drop / Visual-spatial neglect
- Peripheral neurological exam: Limb weakness / Tone change / Up-going Babinski

EXPOSURE

- Head injury
- Rash: Petechiae
- Jaundice
- Liver / CO<sub>2</sub> flap
- Tongue biting
- Urinary incontinence

## INVESTIGATIONS

BLOODS

- FBC / U&E / CRP
- LFT
- Clotting
- B12 / Folate / Thyroid

CBG

- Capillary blood glucose: < 4

ABG

- pH
- pO<sub>2</sub> / pCO<sub>2</sub>
- HCO<sub>3</sub>-
- Lactate

- Hb
- Electrolytes
- Glucose

ECG

- Rate
- Rhythm: Arrhythmia / Heart block
- Ischaemia: ST segment / T wave inversion / New LBBB

URINALYSIS

- Blood
- Leukocytes
- Nitrites

CXR

- Consolidation
- Effusion
- Collapse

MICRO

- Cultures: If Temp > 38
- Sputum: MC&S / AFB
- Urine culture: If +ve urinalysis

CT HEAD

- Stroke
- Intracranial Haemorrhage
- Skull fracture
- Space occupying lesion

DISCUSS WITH SENIOR  
+/- CT HEAD  
INR <1.4 & Plt > 50

LUMBAR PUNCTURE

- Opening pressure
- Organisms / Culture / PCR
- WBC / RBC
- Xanthochromia
- Protein
- Glucose

DISCUSS WITH SENIOR  
+/- CT HEAD  
INR <1.4 & Plt > 50

## POTENTIAL DIFFERENTIALS

SEIZURES

STROKE / TIA

HYPOGLYCAEMIA

ALCOHOL INTOXICATION / WITHDRAWAL

RESPIRATORY FAILURE

HYPOXIA / HYPERCAPNIA

DELIRIUM

SEPSIS / INFECTION

HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY

INTRACRANIAL HAEMORRHAGE

SAH / SUBDURAL / EXTRADURAL

INTRACRANIAL HYPERTENSION

SOL / HYPERTENSION / IDIOPATHIC

ENCEPHALITIS MENINGITIS

OPIOID / SEDATIVE MEDICATION