

## INTRODUCTION

- Paediatrics makes up 25-30% of ED case load
- Patients tend to bring along worried parent(s)
- Approach is the same – History, Exam, Ix, DDs & Rx
- Nuances are different – eg language, order of exam, priorities for each party
- Most children are well...

MAIN CHALLENGE IS TO CONFIRM NO  
LIFE THREATENING ILLNESS PRESENT



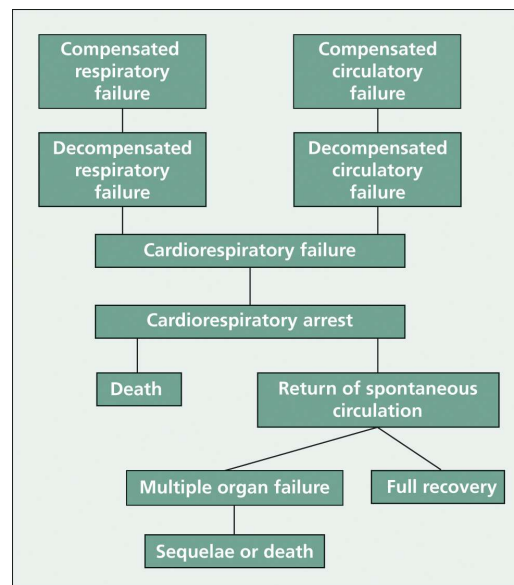
SOMETIMES THEY CHANGE....



## RECOGNITION AND INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD

To understand:

- the importance of using the structured ABCDE approach to rapidly identify seriously ill children
- that there is often some respiratory compensation for circulatory failure and vice versa



## RECOGNITION OF THE SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD IS BASED ON ASSESSMENT OF

- **A**irway (with c-spine consideration in trauma)
- **B**reathing
- **C**irculation
- **D**isability (mental status)
- **E**xposure

## SPECIFIC ABCDE ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS A - AIRWAY

| Assessment                        | Information sought   | Possible resultant actions   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>A</b><br><b>Airway patency</b> | Is the airway: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• patent (conscious, vocalising)</li> <li>• at risk</li> <li>• obstructed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suction if indicated</li> <li>• head positioning</li> <li>• oropharyngeal airway</li> <li>• reassess</li> <li>• summon expert help</li> </ul> |

## RECOGNITION OF AIRWAY OBSTRUCTION

Is the airway:

- Patent?
- At risk?
- Obstructed?



## SPECIFIC ABCDE ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

### B - BREATHING

| Assessment                                      | Information sought  | Possible resultant actions   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>B</b><br><b>Breathing</b><br><b>adequacy</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• respiratory rate</li> <li>• chest expansion</li> <li>• use of accessory muscles / retractions</li> <li>• palpation</li> <li>• percussion</li> <li>• auscultation</li> <li>• SpO<sub>2</sub> and FiO<sub>2</sub></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• administer high-flow oxygen appropriately</li> <li>• support breathing with BMV as necessary</li> <li>• reassess</li> <li>• summon expert help</li> </ul> |

## WORK OF BREATHING

- Respiratory rate
- Chest expansion
- Accessory muscle use / retractions
- Palpation, percussion, auscultation
- Additional sounds
- SpO<sub>2</sub> and FiO<sub>2</sub>



## SPECIFIC ABCDE ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

### C - CIRCULATION

| Assessment  | Information sought   | Possible resultant actions  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>C</b><br><b>Circulation</b><br><b>adequacy</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conscious level</li> <li>• heart rate</li> <li>• capillary refill time</li> <li>• presence of distal pulses</li> <li>• skin temperature and colour</li> <li>• blood pressure</li> <li>• urine output</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attach monitoring (as appropriate to setting)</li> <li>• obtain circulatory access (IV or IO)</li> <li>• estimate weight</li> <li>• request blood samples for laboratory testing and bedside glucose estimation</li> <li>• reassess</li> <li>• summon expert help</li> </ul> |

## ASSESSING CAPILLARY REFILL TIME

Capillary refill time  
> 2 seconds is abnormal



## ASSESSING PULSE VOLUME

Comparison of central and peripheral pulses

- Pulse decreases more rapidly in peripheral than in central pulses



## ASSESSING SKIN PERFUSION

### Skin colour

- Mottling
- Pallor
- Peripheral cyanosis
- Rashes

### Feel skin temperature

- Warm / cold line



## SPECIFIC ABCDE ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

### D - DISABILITY

| Assessment  | Information sought   | Possible resultant actions   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>D</b><br><b>Disability</b><br><b>(conscious level)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVPU</li> <li>• interaction with parent and surroundings</li> <li>• posture and muscle tone</li> <li>• pupil size and reactivity</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reconsider A and B management as conscious level dictates</li> <li>• establish bedside glucose</li> <li>• reassess</li> <li>• summon expert help</li> </ul> |



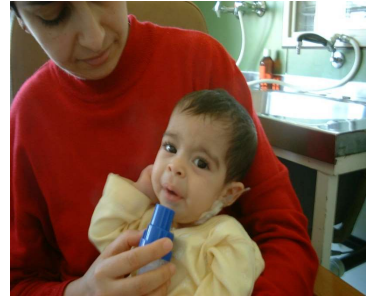
## CONSCIOUS LEVEL

AVPU

Interaction with parents / carers

Posture and muscle tone

Pupil size and reactivity



## SPECIFIC ABCDE ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS

### E - EXPOSURE

| Assessment                  | Information sought   | Possible resultant actions   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| <b>E</b><br><b>Exposure</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evidence of blood loss / skin lesions / wounds / drains / rashes</li> <li>core temperature</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>control any external bleeding</li> <li>reconsider specific management as dictated by any observed fluid loss / lesions etc</li> <li>consider appropriate measures to control temperature</li> <li>reassess</li> <li>summon expert help</li> </ul> |

## EXPOSURE

- Evidence of blood loss / skin lesions / wounds / drains / rashes
- Core temperature



## PAEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES



## INTRODUCTION TO PAEDIATRIC RESPIRATORY COMPLAINTS

- Very common – 35% of Paediatric admissions
- 5<sup>th</sup> most common cause of death 1-14 yr olds
- Seasonal varieties
- Pandemics – H1N1
- Difficult patients to predict trajectories / frequent reviews needed

## CHILD VS ADULT RESPIRATORY DISEASE

### Different anatomy...

- Smaller airways (radius of small airways)
- Large tongue
- Obligate nasal breathers

### Different physiology

- Much greater O<sub>2</sub> requirement/kg
- Breathing and feeding so intertwined in infants

### Different presentations of same bug...

- RSV – bronchiolitis in <2y but simple URTI in 5y old

### Different pathogens...

- Neonates – gram negatives, GBS, chlamydia
- Infants – not yet fully immunised
- Older children – massive exposure at nursery / school age

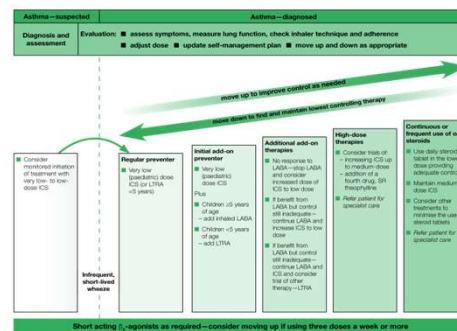
## CASE 'A'

- 8 year old boy at 11pm after playing in a football tournament all day.
- He is SOBAR and now unable to talk in full sentences.
- Coughing ++ and Vomit x1
- Multiple previous episodes – hospitalised x6
- HR 155
- BP 115/87
- RR 32
- O<sub>2</sub> 91% (poor trace)
- T 37.2



## ASTHMA

- Commonest respiratory disorder in childhood
- 30 000 Asthma admissions per year and rising
- 40 UK deaths in 1-14 yr age group
- Chronic inflammation of mucosa
- Bronchoconstriction and reversible airway narrowing
- Transient wheezers secondary to URTIs



# ASTHMA

Classify:

mild / moderate / severe / life threatening

Salbutamol first line

Atrovent for severe episodes

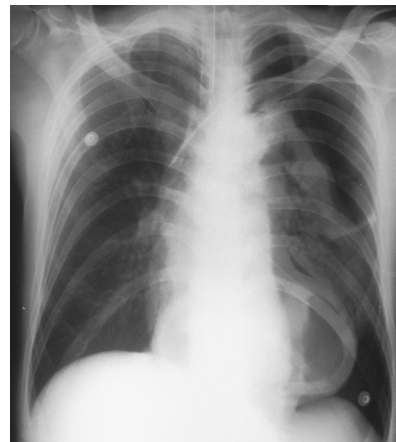
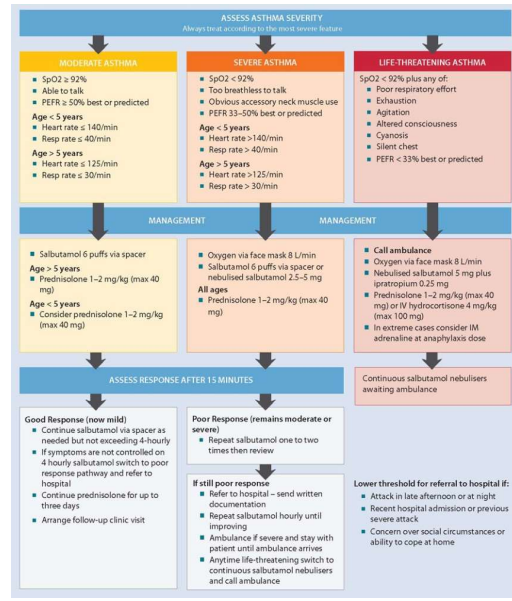
Early steroids

IV salbutamol

IV aminophylline

IV magnesium

Ventilatory Support?



## CASE B

- 6 month old boy 2/7 increasing SOB and cough
- No obvious fevers
- Only had 200ml of milk in the last 24 hours
- Sleepy but rousable
- At triage he has a respiratory rate of 60 and saturations of 93%



## BRONCHIOLITIS

- Lower respiratory tract infection
- Ages 2 months to 2 years
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) most common
- Peak incidence in winter months
- 60% affected by age 1 & 80% by age 2
- Symptoms inc wheeze, cyanosis, vomiting, irritability & poor feeding

## BRONCHIOLITIS

- Early symptoms include a mild rhinorrhoea, cough, and fever
- Other common symptoms include wheeze, cyanosis, vomiting, irritability and poor feeding.
- Apnoea may occur in young infants
- General signs:
  - tachypnoea, tachycardia, fever, cyanosis.
  - Diffuse expiratory wheezing, nasal flaring, intercostal recession, inspiratory crepitations.

## NICE ADMISSION CRITERIA (2015)

Apnoea (observed or reported)

Persistent oxygen saturation of less than 92% when breathing air

Inadequate oral uid intake (50–75% of usual volume, taking account of risk factors

persisting severe respiratory distress, for example grunting, marked chest recession, or a respiratory rate of over 70 breaths/minute

## BRONCHIOLITIS — INVESTIGATIONS

### Which Tests?

Oximetry

NPA

Chest X Ray

Bloods & Blood Gas

### Useful or Not?



## BRONCHIOLITIS - MANAGEMENT

- Supportive measures are the mainstay
- Oxygen
- NG Feeding

Do not use any of the following to treat bronchiolitis in children:

antibiotics  
hypertonic saline  
adrenaline (nebulised)  
salbutamol  
montelukast  
ipratropium bromide  
systemic or inhaled corticosteroids

a combination of systemic corticosteroids and nebulised



## CASE C

- Winter
- a 3 yr old boy presents @ 3am with barking cough and stridor
- Mum holding child in arms walking around outside house
- 2/7 hx of runny nose and mild fevers
- HR 145
- RR 30
- O2 93 (poor trace)
- T 37.8



## CROUP

Viral upper respiratory tract infection causing nasopharyngeal inflammation that spreads to the larynx and trachea

Sub glottal inflammation causes the movement of the vocal cords to be impaired leading to the characteristic cough

Parainfluenza virus causes 80% of episodes

Seasonal – Autumn & Spring

Commonest in ages 6 months to 3 years

Rare above 6 years

## CROUP - INVESTIGATIONS

### WHICH TESTS?

FBC, CRP

NPA

CXR

Differentials?

Epiglottitis

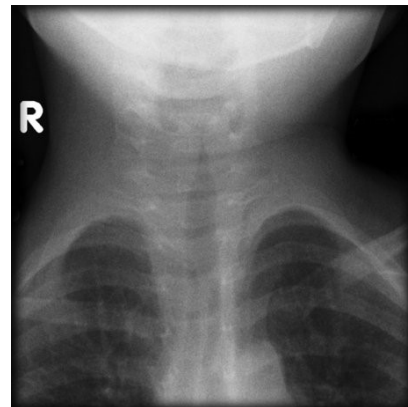
Foreign body

Anaphylaxis

Laryngomalacia

Peritonsillar abscess

### USEFUL OR NOT?

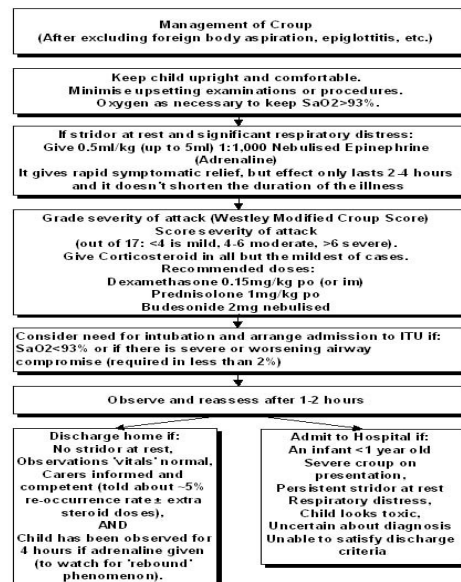


## CROUP — WESTLEY SCORING SYSTEM

| Parameter             | Grade              | Score |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Stridor               | None               | 0     |
|                       | When Agitated      | 1     |
|                       | At Rest            | 2     |
| Intercostal Recession | Mild               | 1     |
|                       | Moderate           | 2     |
|                       | Severe             | 3     |
| Air Entry             | Normal             | 0     |
|                       | Mildly Decreased   | 1     |
|                       | Severely Decreased | 2     |
| Cyanosis              | None               | 0     |
|                       | With Agitation     | 4     |
|                       | At Rest            | 5     |
| Conscious Level       | Normal             | 0     |
|                       | Altered            | 5     |

## CROUP - MANAGEMENT

- Westley score on arrival and 2 hrs later
- Dexamethasone – 0.15mg/kg Stat dose only OR
- Prednisolone 1mg/kg stat dose only OR
- Budesonide 2mg Nebuliser
- Dropping GCS: Adrenaline Nebuliser 5ml 1:1000 at 5 minute intervals
- No improvement – Early intubation considered
- No role for Abx in isolated croup
- If improves home w symptomatic Rx only



## CASE 'D'

• 6 year old girl complaining of SOB along with a widespread urticarial rash having been prescribed antibiotics for a suspected chest infection earlier today.

• The symptoms began 30 minutes after taking the first does of penicillin tonight.

• Cough ++ and Vomit x3

• HR 155

• RR 32

• O<sub>2</sub> 98%

• T 39.8

•



## DRUG ALLERGY / ANAPHYLAXIS

- Multiple allergens possible
- SOB and Rash two most common presenting features
- Time of presentation variable
- Early ABC essential
- Oxygen
- Bronchodilators
- Anti histamines
- Adrenaline if compromised – IM vs IV routes to give?
- Mast Cell Tryptase – immediately then 1-2hrs later

|                     |    |  |
|---------------------|----|--|
| Stings              | 47 | 29 wasp, 4 bee, 14 unknown   |
| Nuts                | 32 | 10 peanut, 6 walnut, 2 almond, 2 brazil, 1 hazel, 11 mixed or unknown  |
| Food                | 13 | 5 milk, 2 fish, 2 chickpea, 2 crustacean, 1 banana, 1 snail  |
| Food possible cause | 17 | 5 during meal, 3 milk, 3 nut, 1 each - fish, yeast, sherbet, nectarine, grape, strawberry  |
| Antibiotics         | 27 | 11 penicillin, 12 cephalosporin, 2 amphotericin, 1 ciprofloxacin, 1 vancomycin   |
| Anaesthetic drugs   | 39 | 19 suxamethonium, 7 vecuronium, 6 atracurium, 7 at induction   |
| Other drugs         | 24 | 6 NSAID, 3 ACEI, 5 gelatins, 2 protamine, 2 vitamin K, 1 each - etoposide, acetazolamide, pethidine, local anaesthetic, diamorphine, streptokinase |
| Contrast media      | 11 | 9 iodinated, 1 technetium, 1 fluorescein   |
| Other               | 3  | 1 latex, 1 hair dye, 1 hydatid   |

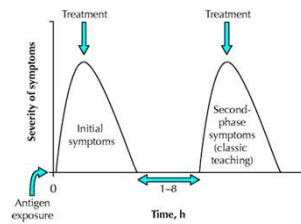
**Table 1. Suspected triggers for fatal anaphylactic reactions in the UK between 1992-2001<sup>15</sup>**

| Drugs in anaphylaxis                       | Dosage by age                            |                     |                                      |                                      |
|--|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  | Less than 6 months                       | 6 months to 6 years | 6 - 12 years                         | More than 12 years                   |
| Adrenaline IM - pre-hospital practitioners | 150 micrograms<br>(0.15ml of 1:1,000)    |                     | 300 micrograms<br>(0.3ml of 1:1,000) | 500 micrograms<br>(0.5ml of 1:1,000) |
| Adrenaline IM - in-hospital practitioners  | 0.1ml/kg of 1:10,000<br>10 micrograms/kg |                     |                                      |                                      |
| Adrenaline IV                              | Titrate 1 microgram/kg*                  |                     |                                      |                                      |
| Crystalloid                                | 20ml/kg                                  |                     |                                      |                                      |
| Chlorphenamine (IM or slow IV)             | 250 micrograms/kg                        | 2.5mg               | 5mg                                  | 10mg                                 |
| Hydrocortisone (IM or slow IV)             | 25mg                                     | 50mg                | 100mg                                | 200mg                                |

\* 1 microgram/kg given over 1 minute (range 30 seconds to 10 minutes), e.g. 0.5ml/kg of 1:10,000 adrenaline made up to 50ml saline 0.9% and run at 1ml/min is 1 microgram/kg/minute

ALSG: APLS Anaphylaxis Algorithm: Updated November 2009

## ADMIT OR HOME – THE BIPHASIC RESPONSE?



Grunau et al (2014)

430,000 case notes with biphasic reactions

Incredibly rare (0.17%!)

Could occur far longer than any reasonable period of observation in the ED (anything up to 6 days afterwards)

There were NO 28/7 fatalities

## FOLLOW UP



Auto injector training

Advice leaflets

GP to refer to allergy clinic if Anaphylaxis

## CASE 'E'

- A 2 year old boy who has recently immigrated from Ecuador presents to the ED with profound SOB and looking pale, lethargic and drooling profusely.
- He has not had any previous illnesses.
- He is now becoming increasingly drowsy.
- HR 165
- RR 30
- O2 93 (poor trace)
- T 39.8
- 



## EPIGLOTTITIS

- Rare, Acute life threatening inflammation
- Hib Vaccination reduced rates significantly
- Most commonly age 2 to 8 years
- Haemophilus Influenzae type B
- Streptococcus
- Rapidly evolving over a few hours
- The 'tripod sign'



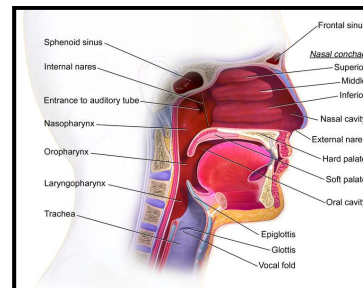
## EPIGLOTTITIS - INVESTIGATIONS

- Keep child on parent's lap
- DON'T do any investigations until the appropriate help have arrived.
- Lateral soft tissue XR
- Throat swabs



## EPIGLOTTITIS - MANAGEMENT

- Intubation in 30% of cases
- Surgical Tracheostomy
- Broad spectrum Abx – Cefotaxime
- Consider Steroids





## CASE 'F'

Priority Call to a 3 year old boy Jacob who is at a friend's birthday party presenting with a sudden onset sob and drooling.

He is having difficulty breathing and has stridor when agitated.

Known 'seasonal asthma'

HR 145

RR 30

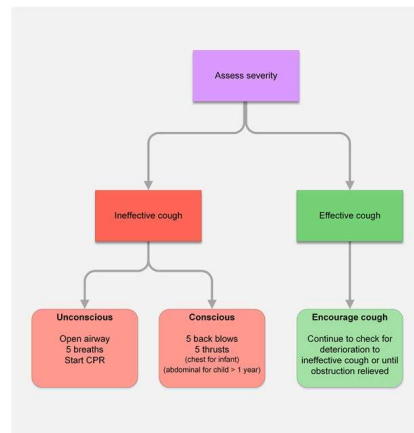
O2 93 (poor trace)

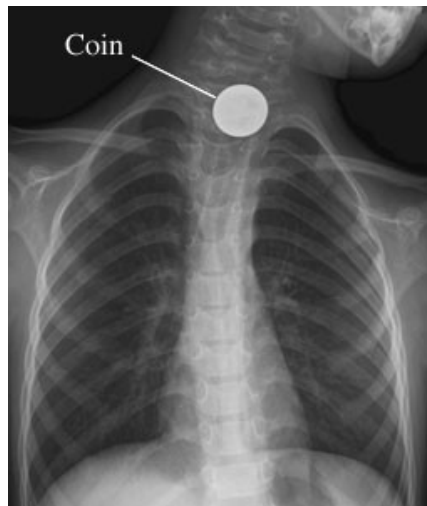
T 37.8



## FOREIGN BODIES

- Children can ingest anything!
- Careful history essential
- May present with obvious SOB and DIB
- Drooling
- Stridor
- Wheeze





ANY QUESTIONS...

