

Valley Children's Experience Paper

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Valley Children's Clinical Paper

Nursing care for pediatric patients entails a unique mixture of work and play. Many children fear going to the doctor's office. The hospital can be a frightening place for the child. Nurses play a vital role in understanding a child's developmental level and being their advocate during their time in the hospital. Valley Children's hospital is an excellent hospital that accommodates for the needs of children and their families. From the structure of the building, to the daily activities planned for the children, Valley Children's strives to be a hospital that is less frightening for children. In order to understand how important, the role of play is for pediatric patient care, the author of the paper attended two clinical days at Valley Children's hospital. The following paragraphs will entail, what my initial expectations were for the hospital, describe the patient that I took care of, the pathophysiology of the patients' conditions, and an overall summary of my experience at the hospital.

Prior Expectations

Prior to going to Valley Children's hospital, I had a mixture of emotions. I was excited to go to a hospital that has all pediatric patients. This guaranteed that I would be getting a pediatrics patient to care for. I was nervous about not being able to play and connect with my patient or their family. I wanted my experience to affirm my aspiration of being a pediatric nurse. I felt that I was prepared for taking care of a pediatrics patient since we have been learning about taking care of pediatric patients all semester. I also had two pediatric patients that I took care of during my clinical hours at Doctors Medical Center.

Patient Information

The information that was gathered about the patient was from a mixture of an interview of the patient's mother and from the nurses who took care of the patient. The patient, E.V., was a four-year-old girl who was admitted to the hospital on December sixth. Her mother had previously taken E.V. to

her primary care physicians office for a swollen lymph node that initially was small for three weeks. The physician did not prescribe E.V. any medication and told her mother to watch the node to see if it changes in size. Six days after E.V. was taken to her physician's office, her mother noticed that the lymph node was growing in size and E.V. was experiencing more pain in the area of the swollen node. E.V.'s mother decided to take her to the emergency room. Her medical diagnosis was lymphadenitis. E.V.'s mother stated that E.V. did not have a cold or infection prior to her swollen lymph node. She currently did not have an infection either. During my initial assessment of E.V. on the first day that I was at the hospital taking care of her, the night shift nurse had marked a boarder around the swollen lymph node to keep track of the size. Her cheek was swollen on the right side of her face all the way to her right ear and underneath her chin on the right side of her face. E.V. had pain upon palpation of the swollen area. A computed tomography (c.t.) scan indicated that her right cervical lymph node was enlarged. There were not any labs for the patient on any of the days that I took care of her. The physicians wanted to continue with watching for the size of the lymph node and control her pain and fever. The physicians also prescribed E.V. antibiotics in hopes that the size of the node will shrink. The plan of care was to monitor the size of the node. The physician would assess E.V. again in 48 to 72 hours and decide if they will do an ultrasound and cut into the mass to drain it. During my time at the hospital there were several medications that were given to E.V. The antibiotic that was prescribed was clindamycin 174 mg (milligrams) intravenously (IV) and was given every eight hours. 170 mg Ibuprofen was given every six hours orally. The ibuprofen was given for pain management and to reduce her fever. Potassium chloride in a dextrose mixture was given continually through IV at a rate of 55 milliliters per hour.

Disease Process

According to John Hopkins University, lymphadenitis is a term used for an enlarged lymph node usually due to an infection.

Overall Experience

Valley Children's Hospital was a wonderful experience. I enjoyed my time with the nurses and the patient I helped take care of. E.V and her mother were very kind to me. I colored with E.V. and painted. I brought her toys from the playroom and requested for the craft and movie carts to stop by her room. On the second day when the playroom was open we spent time playing games and with the toys that the playroom had. E.V. had a smile on her face during the majority of the time while playing in the playroom. Her mother asked her if she was tired and all she said was that she wanted to go play at the playroom. I loved being able to play with E.V. and bring a smile to her face. I thought that the playroom was an excellent place for the children to go during the time that they could be out of their room. Something that I did want to see during my time taking care of E.V. was having more activities during the weekend. The playroom was closed on Saturday and was opened for a few hours on Sunday. The activity that was planned for Sunday afternoon was cancelled. An intervention that I thought would have been helpful for the patient's diagnosis was obtaining labs. I was interested in seeing what the patients white blood cell levels were at. I also wanted to check on her electrolyte level since she was being administered potassium chloride. Overall, I had an excellent experience. The clinical at Valley Children's Hospital reaffirmed my aspiration of becoming a pediatric nurse. I love being able to work with children and their families.

Conclusion

Valley Children's Hospital cares for the children and family like no other hospital that I have been to. Children require special accommodations while being cared for in a medical center. The care

that was observed from the team of doctor's nurses and other medical profession was phenomenal.

They captured the true essence of what family centered care means. They have tailored many aspects of their hospital in order to have a greater satisfaction level for the children and family. Valley Children's Hospital is a wonderful hospital for children.