



- g. Children who live at high altitude when they descend to lower altitude, then return home are at risk for HAPE

Pertinent Assessment Findings

1. Consider airway management needs in the patient with severe alteration in mental status
2. HAPE will present with increasing respiratory distress and rales on exam
3. HACE will present with mental status changes, ataxia, and progressing to coma

Quality Improvement

Associated NEMSIS Protocol(s) (eProtocol.01) (for additional information, go to www.nemsis.org)

- 9914021 – Environmental - Altitude Sickness

Key Documentation Elements

- Patient's itinerary, including starting altitude, highest altitude gained and rate of ascent
- Presence (or absence) of prophylaxis against altitude (including medications such as acetazolamide, sildenafil)
- Total altitude descended

Performance Measures

- Mechanism of treatment for acute mountain sickness, HACE, or HAPE
- Medical decision-making regarding treatment choice (i.e., weather, inability to descend)

References

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