**Headache Scenario**

Points to hit on: assessment of headache, determination of priority of care, signs of inc. ICP

Presenting patient with EMS, has clothes on

48 year old woman presents with 4 hour history of headache

if nurse asks: no history of headache; associated with vomiting, photophobia (light bothers her eyes), sudden onset, to back of head and radiates to front, ‘worst headache of my life’ rates pain 10/10. Started 2 hours ago. (do not volunteer any history)

Assessment: Oriented x3 . PEARL 3 mm. BP 166/88 HR 82 RR 16 T 36.7 SpO2 97% RA

Past medical history: hypertension – takes hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg every day;

Is a smoker - 1 pack per day x25 years.

15 minutes after arrival: patient has projectile vomiting, then becomes very drowsy. BP 168/80 HR 72 RR 14 SpO2 95%RA

Patient needs: IV, HOB elevated, stat CT head followed by LP.

**Scenario – Headache**

**Observer 1 Checklist: Headache**

Learning Objectives:

1. Complete neurological assessment in patient with neurological presentation
2. Recognize neurological criteria identifying a potentially critical patient
3. Demonstrate understanding of protocol in managing patient with critical headache: subarachnoid hemorrhage
4. Utilizes available resources appropriately

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Y** | **N** | **Comments** |
| Hand hygiene completed |  |  |  |
| Undressed patient, introduced self |  |  |  |
| Attached to monitor; assessment of airway, breathing and circulation- completed vital signs and interpreted rhythm on monitor |  |  |  |
| Assessment of neurological system |  |  |  |
| Able to identify emergent nature of headache |  |  |  |
| Reassessed patient regularly |  |  |  |
| Notified MD of concern |  |  |  |
| Upon vomiting, nurse ensures HOB elevated; patient lying on L side |  |  |  |
| Communicated with family |  |  |  |

**Observer 2: Team Communication & Documentation Checklist**

Teamwork objectives:

1. Demonstrate clear, specific and timely communication with other team members and family members.
2. Demonstrate appropriate and timely use of resources

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Team Members** | **Y** | **N** | **Comments** |
| Are concise, clear and specific in communication |  |  |  |
| Seek information from all available resources |  |  |  |
| Activated appropriate personnel in timely and acceptable manner reporting key inclusions (Situation, Background, Assessment and Recommendations) |  |  |  |
| Communicated with family regularly |  |  |  |
| Did team members document all critical information? |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Observer 3: Team dynamics**

1. List examples of effective communication you observed during this scenario (including closed loop communication).
2. Have you observed times in which communication was unclear and you did not observe closed-loop communication? If so, provide examples and explained how the closed loop communication would have improved the scenario.
3. Were appropriate resources utilized well and in a timely fashion?

Give examples.

**Observer 4: Assessment Observations of RN 1**

1. Were key assessment and interventions organized and prioritized appropriately?
2. Describe collaboration efforts of RN 1 with RN 2.
3. Describe the interactions with family member/significant other.
4. Describe the interactions with physician.