

## ALTERED MENTAL STATUS/SEIZURE

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### Information Needed:

- Surroundings: syringes, blood glucose monitoring supplies, insulin, etc.
- Change in mental status: baseline status, onset and progression of altered state, preceding symptoms such as headache, seizures, confusion, trauma, etc.
- Medical history: psychiatric and medical problems, medications, and allergies
- Consider stroke as a possible etiology

### Objective Findings:

- Level of consciousness and neurological assessment
- Pulse Oximetry on room air
- Rate and depth of respirations before and after treatment
- Signs of trauma
- Breath odor
- Pupil size and reactivity
- Needle tracks
- Medical information bracelets or medallions
- Blood glucose level

### Treatment:

#### **Known or Suspected Hypoglycemia**

- Routine Medical Care
- Glucose paste or other oral glucose administration if patient is able to maintain an airway and swallow the solution without difficulty
- If unable to tolerate oral glucose, IV access
- D<sub>50</sub>W 25 g IV slow push for blood glucose <80mg/dL. May repeat as indicated
- **D<sub>10</sub>W 100 ml (10 g) IV/IO for blood glucose <80/dL**
  - **If no response in LOC or glucose remains <80/dmg/dL administer 150 ml (15 g) and reassess the patient, May repeat as indicated**
- Glucagon 1mg IM if IV access is not immediately available. May repeat once after 10 minutes if blood glucose <80 mg/dL

#### **Suspected Intracranial Hemorrhage**

- Routine Medical Care
- Spinal immobilization if any suspicion of head trauma
- Elevate head of gurney if possible to 30 degrees

- Consider IV access
- Avoid excess fluid administration
- Comfort and reassure patient

### **Seizure**

- Routine Medical Care
- Spinal immobilization for any suspicion of head trauma
- Consider IV access
- For persistent generalized seizures (>5 minutes) or recurrent seizures without regaining a normal mental status, treat with midazolam (Versed®) 1-2 mg IV or IM, may repeat every 5 minutes, up to a maximum of 10 mg. Monitor the patients EKG monitor and pulse oximetry after administration.

### **Unknown Cause**

- Routine Medical Care
- Spinal immobilization if any suspicion of head trauma
- Consider IV access
- If narcotic overdose is a possibility (e.g. pinpoint pupils) and the patient is in respiratory failure or shock, give naloxone 1-2 mg IV or IM (titrate to overcome respiratory depression and repeat as needed)
- Blood glucose measurement

### **Behavioral or Psychological**

- Routine Medical Care
- Comfort and reassure patient
- Restrain only as necessary

### **Precautions and Comments:**

- Consider transport in left lateral recumbent position if no spinal injury is suspected
- Be attentive for excessive oral secretions, vomiting, and inadequate tidal volume
- Carefully monitor pulse oximetry and respiratory status including rate and depth of ventilation after administration of midazolam (Versed®)
- Aggressive use of naloxone may precipitate withdrawal symptoms and combativeness
- Glucagon can take 15 minutes or more to have an effect
- Focal seizures without mental status changes do not require prehospital pharmacological intervention
- Consider withholding naloxone in narcotic-dependent comfort care patients, such as hospice, end-stage terminal illness or DNR patients. Base Hospital contact is encouraged