Pediatric Non-Traumatic Headache

For non-traumatic headache or head pain

History
- Age
- Location and duration
- Severity (0 – 10 scale)
- Past medical history
- Drug allergies and medications
- Fever

Signs and Symptoms
- Severity (pain scale)
- Quality (e.g., sharp, dull, or stabbing)
- Radiation
- Relation to movement or respiration
- Photophobia
- Nausea/vomiting
- Fever

Differential
- Migraine
- Intracranial hemorrhage
- Arterial hypertension
- Behavioral
- Viral/bacterial infection
- Hypoxia
- Hypercapnia
- Carbon monoxide poisoning

Assess pain severity
Use combination of pain scale, circumstances, HPI, and illness severity

Neurologic symptons? Yes

Severe pain (Pain scale 7 or greater)

Position of comfort
Temperature measurement
Consider, IV
Assess and monitor respiratory status
Apply and monitor cardiac rhythm
Consider, Ondansetron

Notify receiving facility. Consider Base Hospital for medical direction

Mild pain

Position of comfort
Temperature measurement

Fever

Yes

Stroke/CVA/TIA
### FLACC Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FLACC Scale</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Face</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong> Legs</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong> Activity</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4</strong> Cry</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong> Consolability</td>
<td>No particular expression or smile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Pearls
- Pain severity (0 – 10 scale) shall be recorded before and after all BLS pain control measures delivery. Monitor blood pressure and respirations closely as pain control medications may cause hypotension or respiratory distress.
- FLACC scale is intended for patients under 12 months of age.

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Effective November 2018

Effective April 2023

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San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services

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