Pediatric Dystonic Reaction

For suspected dystonic reaction (i.e., reaction, typically from antipsychotic medications, causing abnormal contraction of head and neck muscles)

History
- Medical history
- Medications
- Abuse or recreational use of prescription medications

Signs and Symptoms
- Restlessness
- Muscle spasms of the neck, jaw and back
- Oculogyric crisis
- Speech difficulties

Differential
- Trauma
- Stroke
- Tumor
- Hypoxia
- Infection
- Drug reactions
- Poisoning

Pearls
- Common drugs implicated in dystonic reactions include many anti-emetics and anti-psychotic medications including, but not limited to:
  - Prochlorperazine (Compazine)
  - Haloperidol (Haldol)
  - Metoclopramide (Reglan)
  - Promethazine (Phenergan)
  - Fluphenazine (Prolixin)
  - Chlorpromazine (Thorazine)
  - Many other anti-psychotic and anti-emetic drugs

E - Obtain vital signs
  - Supplemental oxygen to maintain SpO₂ >92%

P - Cardiac monitor
  - Establish IV/IO
  - Diphenhydramine

E - Monitor and reassess

Notify receiving facility. Consider Base Hospital for medical direction

ALOC
- Respiratory Distress
- Hypotension
- Shock

San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services

Treatment Protocol PX04
Page 1 of 1
Effective April 2024