Acute Altered Mental Status

The purpose of this protocol is to provide for the assessment and treatment of patients with altered mental status such as alcohol, trauma, poisonings, seizures, behavioral problems, stroke, environmental causes, infection, etc.

Pre-Medical Control

MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

1. Follow General Pre-hospital Care Protocol.
2. Restrain patient if necessary.

EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

3. If the patient is alert but demonstrating signs of hypoglycemia, measure blood glucose level, if available, if less than 60 mg/dl administer oral high caloric fluid.
4. If patient is not alert or vital signs are unstable:
   a. Evaluate and maintain airway, provide oxygenation and support ventilations as needed.
   b. If no concern regarding spinal injury, place the patient on either side.
5. Measure blood glucose level:
   a. Consider oral glucose if less than 60 mg/dl

PARAMEDIC

b. Administer dextrose 50% 25 grams (50 cc) IV, small amounts of oral glucose paste, buccal or sublingual.

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6. If unable to start IV, when D50 indicated:
   a. Administer glucagon 1 mg IM.
   b. Consider re-check of blood glucose 10 minutes after glucose/glucagon administration.
7. If no response to the 50% dextrose, or 50% dextrose not indicated, and respiratory depression is present, give up to 2 mg naloxone IV or IM, titrating to improve respiratory status.
8. Contact Medical Control
The purpose of this protocol is to provide for the assessment and treatment of patients with altered mental status such as alcohol, trauma, poisonings, seizures, behavioral problems, stroke, environmental causes, infection, inadequate perfusion, etc.

Follow General Pre-hospital Care Protocol

Restrain patient if necessary

Signs of hypoglycemia → YES

Measure blood glucose level

If less than 60 mg/dL:
Administer oral high caloric fluid if available or oral glucose

Patient alert → NO

Vital signs unstable

If no concern regarding spinal injury, may place patient on either side

Measure blood glucose level

Unable to start IV when D50 indicated
Administer glucagon 1mg IM
Consider re-check of blood glucose 10 minutes after glucose/glucagon administration

Consider oral glucose if less than 60 mg/dL
Administer dextrose 50% 25 grams (50 cc) IV
Small amounts of oral glucose paste, buccal or sublingual

No response to 50% dextrose or 50% dextrose not indicated and respiratory depression is present, give up to 3 mg naloxone IV or IM titrating to improve respiratory status

Glucagon

- Included
- Not Included

CONTACT MEDICAL CONTROL