

## Altered Mental Status In Children 4.26.14

### Questions:

1. Airway secure? BCDE?
2. "Sick" or "not sick"?
3. Do I open the safety net?
4. Immediate life-threatening cause?

### Safety Net

1. O<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub> Sat, suction, airway plan
2. IV, blood glucose, labs
3. Continuous cardiac/NIBP monitoring
4. ECG
5. CXR

### Immediate Life Threats

1. Hypoglycemia
2. Hypoxia
3. Hyper or hypothermia
4. Hypotension
5. Increased intracranial pressure
6. Seizure

### 5 Causes

1. Vital Sign Abnormality
2. Toxic-metabolic
3. Structural
4. Infectious
5. Psychogenic

### AMPLE History

- Allergies
- Medications – include family members'
- Past Medical History
- Last meal
- Events leading up to ED visit

### Diagnostic Testing \*POC

1. VBG\*
2. UA\*
3. Pregnancy test\*
4. BMP\*
5. Bedside glucose\*
6. HCT\*
7. ECG\*
8. CXR\*
9. CBC
10. Ammonia
11. LFTs
12. Magnesium
13. Lactate
14. UDS
15. ASA
16. APAP
17. Serum osmolality
18. ETOH
19. Head CT
20. Skeletal survey
21. CSF/LP-OP
22. MRI

23. KUB/Abdominal US
24. Urine Culture
25. Blood cultures
26. Rapid MRI
27. VP Shunt series
28. Continuous EEG
29. Blood cultures
30. Urine cultures
31. Thyroid functions
32. Bedside US

### Toxidromes

1. Anticholinergic
2. Sympathomimmetic
3. Serotonin syndrome
4. Narcotic
5. Cholinergic

### Increased Intracranial Pressure

1. Bulging fontanel
2. Cushing's response
3. T-wave inversions
4. Papilledema
5. CN 3/4/6 palsy
6. Unequal pupils
7. Enlarged head circumference

### Increased ICP – CT findings

<http://www.vanderbiltmed.com/medical-student-videos.html>

1. Hydrocephalus
2. Ventricular effacement
3. Gray-white matter – loss of differentiation
4. Cistern effacement
5. Loss of gyri-sulci
6. Diffuse edema

### Examination Clues

1. Petechiae
2. Vesicles
3. Ecchymoses
4. Eye deviation
5. Pupil asymmetry
6. Posturing
7. Hyperreflexia
8. Hemotympanum
9. CSF otorrhea/rhinorrhea
10. Retinal hemorrhages
11. Kussmal breathing

### AEIOU-TIPS

A-Alcohol/Acidosis  
E-Endocrine/Epilepsy/Electrolytes  
I-Infection  
O-Opiates/Overdose  
U-Uremia  
T-Trauma  
I-Insulin  
P-Poisoning/Psychosis  
S-Stroke