

Hypertonic Saline and Dextran Upcoming Training Challenges



*OPALS PRG Annual Meeting
Ottawa 2008*

Paramedics



- What's the word on the street?
 - “Somebody died as a result of HS”
 - “They always keep us in the dark”
 - “This is a cover up story to keep us interested”
 - “I will not do this anymore because they suspended the study twice now, there must be something wrong”
 - There are many more...
- How are we going to overcome these rumors???

Paramedics



- 1) I would start by the truth... Set the facts straight**
 - Explain why studies are suspended (3 major reasons – Overly beneficial, detrimental trend or one patient was severely injured)
- 2) Hypertonic Saline Study was not terminated, it was suspended for precautionary reasons**
 - Investigators are very cautious in studies where patients are exempt from informed consent
 - No report of any patients being harmed
 - simply a trend that was identified and required more investigation

Paramedics



- 3) No one person in the ROC Research Group is aware of the result of the ongoing investigation**
- **Results may take up to 6 months to obtain**
 - **Recommendations here made to carry on with the brain injury arm and no Hypovolemic arm**
 - **Only the Data Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB – independent review board) is aware of nature of the problem**
 - **As soon as we know the results of the investigation we will, in turn, notify all participating sites**

Paramedics



- 4) We encourage all service operators and base hospital education staff to come up with a strategy to overcome these rumours**
- **You know your workforce more than anybody else**
 - **A strategy that works in one site may not in the other**
 - **All sites are happy to share their success stories but strategies must be consistent with past initiatives**
 - **OPALS and ROC will provide you with all the materials necessary and assist you in this process.**

Change in Protocol



Traumatic Brain Injury

Enroll patients that meet the following criteria

OLD Protocol – Inclusion Criteria

-Patient with GCS \leq 8



New Protocol – Inclusion Criteria

-Patient with GCS < 8

-SBP **MUST** be > 90 mmHG

Very important:

- To enroll a patient: the SBP must be 91mmHg or more
- No hypotensive patients are to be enrolled
- The Shock cohort is still suspended
- All documentation requirements remain the same

Training Delivery



3 training requirements

- A minimum of 90% of the paramedics must be re-trained in your services prior to re-start
- All paramedics must receive the new training package
- Medical Director or Education Manager must send a letter stating that 90%+ of the paramedics in his/her jurisdiction have received re-training

Training Delivery



- 1. A minimum of 90% of the paramedics must be re-trained in your services prior to re-start**
 - Minimum acceptable of personnel trained prior to re-start**

Training Delivery



2. All paramedics must receive the new training package

- This can be done in the form of a handout from a supervisor or team leader
- Integrated in a CME session or re-training sessions
- All messaging vehicles are acceptable: Roll call, email, stickers, pocket cards, posters
- Emphasis must be made on TBI only, it must be clear that hypotensive patients are excluded
- Estimated time of training averages 15 min per paramedic

Training Delivery



- 3. Medical Director or Education Manager must send a letter stating that 90%+ of the paramedics in his/her jurisdiction have received re-training**
 - Training letter is to be sent to Marc Da Ponti or Jane Banek at the OPALS office
 - It must be addressed to Dr Ian Stiell
 - It is also strongly encouraged that the service and the medical director send a memo to the paramedics indicating and endorsing the re-start

To be enrolled or not be enrolled...



Exclusions: Penetrating trauma to the head and GCS higher than 8

To be enrolled or not be enrolled...



Inclusion: patient GCS less than 8 and SBP of 91 mmHg

To be enrolled or not be enrolled...



When I was searching for trauma pictures I found these...

I honestly did not think this could happen

Have a great day and enjoy the rest of the conference !

***The OPALS
Prehospital Research
Group***



ONTARIO PREHOSPITAL ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT STUDY

Annual Meeting Ottawa 2008