



**Pediatrics II**  
Asthma, seizures and cardiac arrest

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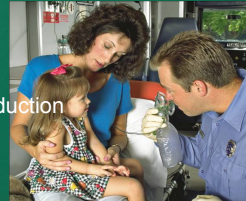


## Asthma

~21% of all asthma cases are school aged

Identify 3 symptoms of an asthma exacerbation

- Bronchospasm
- Edema of the bronchi
- Increased mucus production




## Children are different...

Smaller airways

Do they compensate through increased tidal volume?

They increase their respiratory rate causing airways to **dehydrate**

**NO**



## Cough variant asthma

What is it and how does it present?

May not wheeze but continuously cough for 20 – 30 minutes after excitement or exercise

May also abruptly vomit without nausea



## Symptoms of severe distress

|                          |                                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Appearance</b>        | Exhausted, lethargic                         |
| <b>Work of breathing</b> | Severe SOB                                   |
| <b>SpO2</b>              | 94% or less                                  |
| <b>Capnography</b>       | EtCO2 elevated over 55 w/ shark fin waveform |
| <b>Breath Sounds</b>     | Decreased or absent                          |
| <b>HR</b>                | Bradycardia                                  |



## A silent chest is...

WORRISOME

Why?

*NO breath sounds means NO gas exchange and this child is in extremis*




**Hypoxemia + hypercarbia=**

**Acidosis  
Bradycardia**

Children die from acidosis or hypoxia?

**ACIDOSIS**



**Based on SOP...**

What is the first line of treatment for a pt with *mild to moderate* distress

**ALBUTEROL 2.5 mg (3 mL) via HHN or mask**

If pt remains hypoxic, what additional treatment modality can be given?

**Supplement w/O<sub>2</sub> 6 L/NC if patient is hypoxic and using a HHN**

When should transport begin?

**Begin transport as soon as albuterol is started. Do not wait for a response.**

**Continue/repeat ALBUTEROL while enroute to hospital.**



**What symptoms are associated w/ a patient in severe distress?**

|                   |                  |                             |                                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Severe SOB</b> | <b>↓BS</b>       | <b>absent breath sounds</b> | <b>SpO<sub>2</sub> 94 or less</b> |
| <b>hypoxic</b>    | <b>exhausted</b> | <b>brady</b>                | <b>time sensitive</b>             |



**Based on the symptoms mentioned for a pt in severe distress, what is first line treatment?**

**Epinephrine (1:1000) 0.01 mg/kg IM**

**Maximum 0.3 mg**

**What equipment was needed?**



**All are true**

|                                                                                                                                                                             |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Pt. is hypoxic, needs higher FiO <sub>2</sub> .                                                                                                                             | <b>TRUE</b> |
| If albuterol is given 1 <sup>st</sup> with only one source of oxygen, you are unable to give more than 6L until you get to the ambulance or bring in another portable tank. | <b>TRUE</b> |
| If in the ambulance, EMS can give O <sub>2</sub> 6 L/ neb in addition to 6 L/NC                                                                                             | <b>TRUE</b> |
| If patient is severely bronchoconstricted, nebulized albuterol may not reach target tissues.                                                                                | <b>TRUE</b> |
| The combination of epi and albuterol on a hypoxic heart can be lethal.                                                                                                      | <b>TRUE</b> |



**After epi...what is next?**

**Albuterol 2.5 mg/3 ml. via HHN, mask or BVM/ET.**

**Continue/repeat Albuterol enroute to the hospital.**

**May repeat epi X 1 in 10 minutes if minimal response.**



And if the pt still isn't getting relief?

### Magnesium

25 mg/kg (max 2 Gm) mixed with NS to total 20 mL

slow IV/IO over 10-20 min.

What equipment is needed?

\*\*What role does ipratropium play in pediatric patients with asthma?

Use is only permitted after OLMC



## PCR Review Respiratory Distress

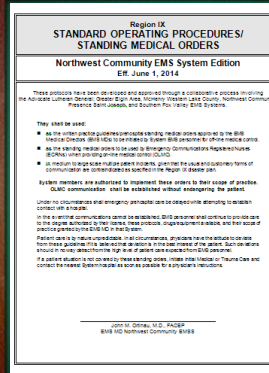


**Adults**=  $\uparrow$  stroke volume by  $\uparrow$  inotropy (strength of contraction) & chronotropy (rate of contraction) when the SV decreases.

**Peds**= can only increase chronotropy & has low compliance related to volume; therefore  $\emptyset$  compensate by  $\uparrow$  SV.

Consequently, heart rate should be seen as significant  
When a peds pt becomes bradycardic, it should be assumed that CO has been drastically  $\downarrow$

Beyond the Basics: Pediatric Assessment & Management  
DANIEL LIMMER, AS, EMT-P, JOSEPH J. MISTOVICH



## SOP Review



**BREATHING IS  
EVERYTHING TO A CHILD...  
REMEMBER THE BASICS**



## Seizures

Growing epidemic affecting 4.5% pop

Majority affect those < 20yrs of age

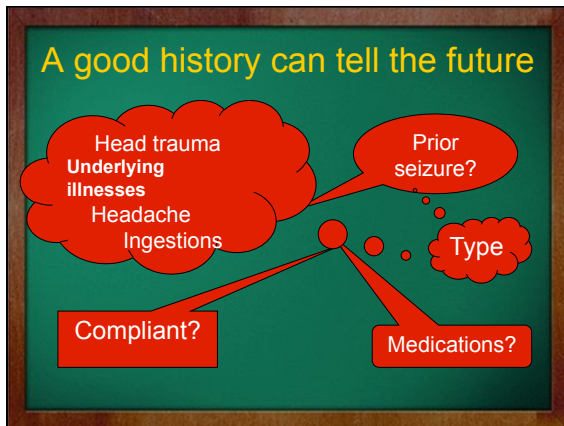
Cause known ~ 50%

Often when EMS is called, arrival is during post-ictal state or after activity ceases

Hx and PE crucial to pass along

Sz etiology helps determine tx





### Describe the event

- Duration
- Aura
- Muscle rigidity
- Post-ictal
- Incontinence
- General vs. local
- Eye deviation
- Trauma to oral cavity
- Abnormal behavior (ie. lip smacking)

### What are the two highest priorities when treating a pt with seizure activity?

### When is a seizure pt to be treated?

Only if generalized tonic / clonic activity

### What is the first treatment?

Midazolam 0.1 mg/kg IV/IO to max of 5mg

### Higher priority?

midazolam

blood glucose level

### Reasons to identify if febrile

- Hydration status
- Infectious possibility

### How is cooling accomplished?

Passive by removing clothing & cover lightly

## Types of Seizures

## Identify activity for documentation



## General Tonic Clonic activity



## Treat or not to treat?



## Complex Partial seizure



The common denominator for unexpected deaths in children is hypoxia

A child's metabolism is 2x an adult requires ↑ quantities of oxygen

The body's source for oxygen comes from the pulmonary system, therefore children w/ respiratory issues will progress rapidly to cardiovascular compromise death.

*We will never treat what we do not recognize...*



**Therefore...**

Once bradycardia is identified in a respiratory compromised pediatric patient, intervention must be swift.

Otherwise, long term prognosis is poor for those who go into arrest, even if resuscitative efforts are successful.



**Identify an example for the following...**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Hypoxemia         | Toxins         |
| Hypovolemia       | Tamponade      |
| H+ acidosis       | Thrombosis     |
| Hypothermia       | Trauma         |
| Hyper/hypokalemia | Tension pneumo |
| Hypoglycemia      |                |



**Infant vs. Child Compressions**

|          | Infant                    | Child                            |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Location | Just below nipple line    | Lower 1/2 of sternum nipple line |
| Depth    | 1/3-1/2 depth of chest    | 1/3-1/2 depth of chest           |
| Rate     | 100 / min                 | 100 / min                        |
| Method   | 2 thumbs encircling chest | Either 1 or 2 hands to compress  |

**4 critical elements of CPR**

1. Push **HARD**
2. Push **FAST**
3. **RELEASE** completely
4. **MINIMIZE** interruptions




**Defibrillation**

