

EPIGLOTTITIS

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

1. Occurs as any age, but usually between 2-7 y.o.
2. Sudden onset of symptoms may occur
3. High fever
4. Shock may occur early
5. Restlessness, irritability, and extreme anxiety are common
6. Child often drools because swallowing is difficult or painful
7. Stridor with marked suprasternal, subcostal, and intercostal retractions.
8. Cyanosis
9. Tripoding or other position of comfort.

OBTAIN HISTORY OF:

1. Onset of symptoms
2. History, allergies and medications
3. Recent history of bacterial or viral infection
4. Vaccinations, specifically *influenzae* type b

PRECAUTIONS:

1. Do not attempt to intubate or visualize the cords, or place anything in the patient's mouth.
2. Complications can include: airway obstruction, aspiration, septic shock and death from asphyxia.

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT CARE:

1. Avoid agitating the child because this can cause airway obstruction.
2. Maintain and open airway and ensure proper ventilations. Apply oxygen. If needed, ventilate the child with a bag-valve-mask and supplemental oxygen.
3. Monitor vital signs including respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, pulse rate, blood pressure and temperature.
4. Maintain position of comfort
5. Transport to appropriate facility

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT CARE (In addition to above and as appropriate):

1. Transtracheal insufflation may be needed if patient is in respiratory arrest

SPECIAL NOTES:

1. Due to vaccinations, epiglottitis can be seen more commonly in adults