

NURSING CARE OF A CHLID WITH FEVER.

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Out line.

- Introduction
- Goals
- Quick assessment of the child's condition
- Nursing care.

Introduction

Is a medical condition which presents with uncontrolled elevated body temperature measured as above 37.5°C.

Goals;

- To attain and maintain normal body temperature ranges.
- Prevent complications that may result from uncontrolled fever.
- Find out the underlying cause.
- Managing the underlying cause.
- Allay anxiety

Cont.

Assessment of the child's condition.

This involve subjective and objective data.

- **Subjective data.**
- Take a quick history of the presenting complaint from the mother or the care taker.
- Biographic data i.e. name, age, gender
- Medical, surgical, family and social history

Cont.

Objective data.

- Perform a quick physical examination from head to toe.
- A quick review of all the systems; look out for signs of serious illness, then detailed assessment may be done when the child has attained a stable condition.

General danger signs

- Inability to feed
- Severe vomiting
- Convulsions
- Lethargy/ Unconsciousness
- Fever

Signs of serious illness

- Tachycardia, tachypnoea, $SPO_2 \leq 90\%$
- Shock
- Heart murmurs
- Dehydration
- Bulging fontanelles in young children
- Stiff neck

Cont.

- Central nervous system.
- Cardiovascular system.
- Respiratory system.
- Gastro-intestinal system
- Genito- urinary system
- Musculoskeletal system

Plan.

- Care plan depends on the list of identified problems.
- Obtain informed consent .
- Call for help.
- Consider ABCD approach.
- Inform doctor on call, the pediatrician and in-patient/ ward team
- Continuous vital observation
- Establish iv line and give iv fluids.
- Carry out investigations.

Count.

- Put child on oxygen if required.
- Book blood products if required.
- Monitor fluid in put and out put.

Implementation

- Allay anxiety.
- Ensure that the care giver signs consent form for admission.
- Inform doctor on call and the pediatric team.
- Continuous vital observations
- Establish IV access, give iv fluids and prescribed medications.
- Offer oxygen therapy if recommended.

Cont.

- Take off blood samples for RBS, BS/RDT, grouping, CBC and cross match.
- Book blood products; i.e. packed cell, whole blood, platelets and fresh frozen plasma.
- Provide supportive care such as pain relief and comfort.
- Ensure IPC practices i.e. hand hygiene.
- Prevent injury.
- Give health education talk.
- Ensure proper documentation.

At primary level setting/ facility.

- All children with high grade fever must be managed from a well established health facility for appropriate investigation.
- **Pre-referral Care;-**
- Quick assessment
- Vital observation
- Pre-referral treatment
- Establish an iv line and give iv fluids

Count.

- Reassure the child (if applicable), mother and family members.
- Refer the child urgently.
- Ensure proper documentation.

Take home note

- Antipyretics do not prevent febrile convulsions.
- Do not give empirical antibiotic treatment.
- Cold water sponging is NOT effective because it is associated with discomfort and increased risk of hypothermia.
- Ensure parental involvement and health education.

THANK YOU !