DIABETES/ ALTERED MENTAL STATUS

OBJECTIVES

5-3 Identify basic facts and terms about neurologic and diabetic emergencies with at least 80% accuracy.

OBJECTIVES

- Diabetes
- Signs and symptoms associated with a patient with altered mental status with a history of diabetes controlled medication

OBJECTIVES

- Emergency medical care of altered mental status with a history of diabetes
- Oral glucose
- Seizures
- Altered Mental Status

Diabetes

- Glucose
  - –Sugar that cells use for energy
  - – Food is converted to energy
  - –Glucose enters blood stream

Diabetes

- Insulin
  - Hormone produced by pancreas
  - Allows glucose to enter cells
  - Decrease in insulin will result in glucose not being used

Diabetes - Types

- Type I (Insulin dependent)
  - Juvenile onset
  - Little to no ability to produce insulin
  - Patient takes insulin

Diabetes - Types

- Type II (Non-Insulin dependent)
  - Adult onset
  - Older obese patient at risk
  - Treated with diet and oral medications

Signs and Symptoms

- Rapid onset
  - Missing a meal
  - Vomiting a meal
  - Overexertion
  - May occur for no reason

Signs and Symptoms

- Intoxicated appearance
- Elevated heart rate
- Cold, clammy skin
- Hunger
- Seizures

Signs and Symptoms

- Insulin/oral medications found at scene
  - Diabinase
  - Orinase
  - Micronase

Signs and Symptoms

- Uncharacteristic behavior
- Anxiety
- Combative

Emergency Medical Care

- Perform initial assessment
- Perform focused history and physical exam

Questions to ask

- Description of episode
- Onset
- Duration
- Associated symptoms
- Evidence of trauma

Questions to ask

- Interventions
- Seizures
- Fever

Emergency Medical Care

- Perform SAMPLE history
- Baseline vital signs
- Assure known history of diabetes

Emergency Medical Care

- Determine last meal, last medication dose
- Determine if patient can swallow

Emergency Medical Care

- Administer oral glucose
- Continuously reassess and monitor airway

Administer Oral Glucose

- Medication name
  - Generic
  - Trade
- Indications

Administer Oral Glucose

- Contra-indications
- Medication form
- Dosage

Administer Oral Glucose

- Administration
- Actions
- Side effects
- Reassessment strategies

Seizures

- Seizures in children are rarely life threatening
  - Any seizure including febrile should be considered life threatening by the EMT-B
- May be brief or prolonged

Seizures - Causes

- Fever
- Infections
- Poisoning
- Hypoglycemia

Seizures - Causes

- Trauma
- Decreased levels of oxygen
- idiopathic

Tonic-Clonic

- Characterized by unconsciousness and major motor activity
- Usually last only a few minutes

Tonic-Clonic

- Three distinct phases
  - Tonic phase
  - Clonic phase
  - Postictal phase

Emergency care

- Ensure patent airway
- Position on side
- Have suction ready

Emergency care

- Artificially ventilate if cyanotic
- Transport

Altered Mental Status

- Caused by a variety of conditions
  - Hypoglycemia
  - Poisoning
  - Post seizure

Causes

- Infection
- Head trauma
- Decreased oxygen levels

Treatment

- Ensure patent airway
- Be prepared to suction/ventilate

Treatment

- Transport
- Consider trauma
  - Can be a cause of altered mental status

Review

5-3 Identify basic facts and terms about neurologic and diabetic emergencies with at least 80% accuracy.

Review

- Diabetes
- Signs and symptoms associated with a patient with altered mental status with a history of diabetes controlled medication

Review

- Emergency medical care of altered mental status with a history of diabetes
- Oral glucose
- Seizures
- Altered Mental Status