

CODE: N13
 Question: Neuro Type: Emergency Author: Dr. R. Shukla

Opening Scenario:

20 year old man was involved in a car accident. He was not wearing a seatbelt. He was unconscious at the site and brought to emergency department where he is showing signs of decerebrate rigidity. The emergency room physician asked your help in resuscitation. What are your concerns?

Major points of additional information to be provided to the candidate, e.g., hx, px, labs, x-ray, consults:

His breathing is laboured. Respiratory rate is about 12 per minute. Blood pressure is 130, pulse is 90. Neurosurgeon who is on his way is requesting a CT scan. How would you prepare the patient?

Major decision points (major decision points or options which must be recognized by the candidate)

The candidate must recognize increased intracranial pressure. Possibility of cervical spine injury. As patient was not wearing seatbelt and sustained a major head injury, possibility of other system involvement is high and candidate must be aware and should undertake appropriate history, clinical examination and other investigations.

Any followup information required to lead to the end of the question

Patient was found to have large sudural hematoma. How would one prepare for intra and postop anaesthetic?

Critical features to be included i.e. the *must* have to pass the question or to be considered *completely unacceptable*

Candidate must recognize signs and symptoms of raised intracranial pressure and should know Glasgow coma scale. In this case, he should know if the patient has a closed head injury with increased intracranial pressure, he must establish the airway quickly knowing that he might have cervical spine injury. Once the airway is established, he should know other measures to control the intracranial pressure. He should be familiar with ATLS protocol for quick assessment of multisystem trauma.

Ref: RCEXAMAT.FORM.June.95

USED:

Last revision: 95/10

* IN LINE STABILIZATION *

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