



INTER AND INTRAHOSPITAL TRANSPORTATION OF CRITICAL ILL PATIENTS

General Medicine

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ABSTRACT

OBJECTIVE

The development of practice guidelines for the conduct of intra- and interhospital transport of the critically ill patient.

DISCUSSION

- The transfer of a patient to another facility or hospital or to another department in the same hospital is least known but an equally important.
- The decision to transfer the patient is based on the benefits of care available at another facility against the potential risks involved.
- The need to transfer a patient should take into account the benefit of providing extra care on the management or outcome

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

- The risk of transferring a critically ill patient is manifold.
- The various contributors of need to transfer the patient include the presence of few centers which provide super specialty care, non availability of specialty beds and funding of medical treatment.
- Any intra or inter hospital patient transfer should aim at maintaining optimal health of the patient which is carried out by transferring the patient to the nearest facility providing highest specialized care

TYPES OF TRANSFER

- Primary transfer:
- Usually refers to ambulance transfers from home or the street to an accident and emergency department
- Secondary transfers:
- Intra or inter hospitals.

Critically ill patients are transferred daily within hospitals.

DANGERS OF TRANSFERRING CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS

- Adverse physiological response
- Hostile and unfamiliar environment
- Limited resources.
- Equipment problems..

PHYSIOLOGICAL ALTERATIONS DURING TRANSPORT

- Noise
- Vibration
- Acceleration and gravitational forces
- Temperature and humidity

EQUIPMENT'S

- BP monitor, pulse oximeter and cardiac monitor/defibrillator accompany every patient without exception.
- Equipment for airway management, seized appropriately for each patient, is also transported with patient, as is an oxygen source of ample supply to provide for projected needs pulse a 30-min reserve.

CONCLUSION

- Transfer is an important but often neglected phase of continuing care of a patient who may also need additional care.
- Transfer should be initiated after carefully balancing the benefits obtained versus the risks involved.
- The patient transfer should be based on the concept of 'stabilize and shift' by initiating stabilization of patient at the transferring facility and continuing such care till the receiving facility

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