ALLERGIC REACTIONS

OBJECTIVES

5-4 Identify basic facts and step by step procedures regarding allergic reactions with at least 80% accuracy.

OBJECTIVES

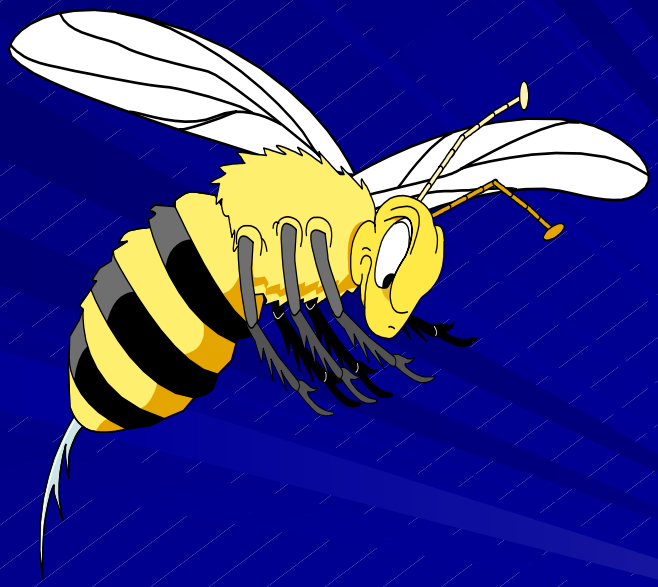
- Allergic Reactions
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector

DEFINITIONS

- Allergic reaction
  - An exaggerated immune response to any substance

Possible Causes

- Insect bites and stings
- Food
- Plants
- Medications
- Others



Assessment Findings

- Skin
  - Warm tingling feeling in face, mouth, chest, feet and hands
  - Itching
  - Hives
  - Red skin
  - Swelling

Assessment Findings

- Respiratory system
  - Tightness in chest/throat
  - Cough
  - Rapid/Labored breathing
  - Noisy breathing

Assessment Findings

- –Hoarseness
- –Stridor
- –Wheezing
- Cardiac System
  - –Increased heart rate
  - –Decreased blood pressure

Assessment Findings

- Generalized findings
  - Itchy, watery eyes
  - Headache
  - Sense of impending doom
  - Runny nose

Assessment Findings

- Decreasing mental status
- Assessment findings that reveal shock or respiratory distress indicate the presence of a severe allergic reaction

Emergency Care

- If patient has come in contact with substance that caused a previous reaction or shows signs and symptoms of shock
  - Perform initial assessment

Emergency Care

- Perform focused history
  - History of allergies?
  - To what was the patient exposed?
  - How was patient exposed?

Emergency Care

- Perform focused history
  - What effects?
  - Progression?
  - Interventions?

Emergency Care

- SAMPLE history
- Focused physical exam
- Baseline vital signs
- Oxygen if not already done
- Determine if patient has prescribed epinephrine

Emergency Care

- Contact medical direction
- Assist with administration of epi-auto injector
- Record and reassess in two minutes

Emergency Care

- Record assessment findings
- If patient does not have auto-injector, transport immediately

Emergency Care

- Patient does not have signs and symptoms of respiratory distress or shock
  - Focused Assessment
  - Patient without signs of respiratory distress should not receive epinephrine

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Medication name
  - Generic name
  - Trade name

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Indications
  - Patient exhibiting signs of an allergic reaction
  - Medication prescribed by a physician
  - Medical direction authorizes use

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Contraindications
  - None when used in a life threatening situation
- Medication Form

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Dosage
  - Adult – 0.3 mg
  - Infant/child – 0.15 mg

Administration

- Obtain order from medical direction
- Ensure four rights
- Check expiration date
- Remove safety cap

Administration

- Do not touch black tip
- Place black tip against patient's thigh
  - Lateral aspect of thigh
  - Between waist and knee
- Push injector against thigh

Administration

- Hold injector in place until medication is injected (10 seconds)
- Record activity and time
- Dispose of injector in biohazard container

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Actions
  - Dilates bronchioles
  - Constricts blood vessels

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Side Effects
  - Increased heart rate
  - Pallor
  - Dizziness
  - Chest pain

Epinephrine Auto Injector

- Side Effects
  - Headache
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Excitability/anxiousness

Re-Assessment Strategies

- Transport
- Continue assessment
  - Airway
  - Breathing
  - Circulation

Condition worsens

- Decreasing mental status
- Increasing breathing difficulty
- Decreasing blood pressure

Condition worsens

- Contact medical direction
  - Additional dose of epinephrine
  - Treat for shock
  - Prepare for BLS

Conditions improves

- Oxygen
- Treat for shock

Review

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Review

- Allergic Reactions
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector