2.15 SUSPECTED SEPSIS

RETIRE

BLS Treatment

- Position of comfort.
- NPO
- Oxygen as indicated.

ALS Treatment

- Establish IV/IO with Normal Saline TKO. Recommend 2 IV lines if possible.
- If blood glucose <60 mg/dl, unmeasurable or patient is a known diabetic: Dextrose
- For HR > 100 or BP <90 administer Normal Saline fluid bolus.

SEPSIS SCREEN

For all patients with vital sign abnormalities, conduct the following screen (see COMMENTS):

- 1. Does patient have suspected or documented infection?
- 2. Does patient have 2 or more of the following vital sign abnormalities:
 - Temperature > 38° C or < 36° C
 - Heart Rate > 90
 - Respiratory Rate > 20

If answer to BOTH #1 and #2 is YES, continue with sepsis protocol. Otherwise go to other applicable protocol.

Comments

Sepsis is caused by a whole-body inflammatory response called, "Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome "characterized by a fever (not always present), tachycardia, tachypnea and hypotension. It is more common in the very young (newborns), the elderly, diabetics or those with compromised immune systems. Other risk factors include: cancer/malignancies, renal disease, alcoholism, drug abuse, malnutrition, hypothermia or recent surgical or other invasive procedures (e.g. long-term venous catheters placed). Field treatment is early recognition, fluid and notifying hospital staff about possible sepsis.

Base Hospital Contact Criteria

Consultations as need for question about possible septic patient.

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