2.10 Medication via Nebuliser

Objectives:

At the end of this section you should know how to:

- Prepare the patient for the administration of medication via a nebuliser;
- Collect and prepare the necessary equipment;
- Administer medication via a nebuliser.

Indications for using a nebuliser

A nebuliser attached to a flow of air or oxygen converts a liquid into an aerosol mist. It may be used for the following reasons:

- To administer bronchodilators;
- To administer mucolytic medication to reduce the viscosity of secretions to aid expectoration.

Asthma patients should have their peak flow of tidal volume recorded before and after nebuliser therapy.

Equipment

- Prescribed air or oxygen supply – piped, in a cylinder or portable air compressor
- Flow meter
- Oxygen tubing
- Nebuliser
- Mouthpiece or appropriate oxygen mask
- Medication
- Sputum carton
- Tissues
- Receptacle for soiled disposables
- Peak flow meter if appropriate
- Disposable mouthpiece if appropriate
- Recording chart for peak flow rate if appropriate

Procedure

- Perform hand hygiene;
- Check the prescription sheet noting strength of aerosol solution and/or length of time the drug is to be administered;
- Explain the procedure to the patient;
- Explain the dangers of smoking during the procedure to the patient;
- Position patient in upright position;
- Record peak flow rate if appropriate;
- Prepare prescribed dose of medication in a sterile syringe;
- Place medication in nebuliser;
- Connect oxygen tubing to oxygen flow meter and nebuliser;
- Connect mask to nebuliser;
- Adjust oxygen flow to 6-8 litres to ensure sufficient vaporisation of the medication;
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Procedure cont ...

- Check that mist is issuing from the face mask;
- Apply face mask to patient and ask patient to breathe normally;
- Encourage patient to expectorate;
- If appropriate estimate peak flow rate again;
- Wash and dry the nebuliser and place in a plastic bag which has been labelled with the patient’s name ready for the next administration;
- Perform hand hygiene;
- Document administration of the medication, monitor after effects and report any abnormalities immediately.

REFERENCES: