Management of Croup Guideline

Leave the child in a comfortable position
DO NOT insert a tongue depressor or take blood or X-ray

Symptoms
Coryzal onset
No drooling
Barking cough
Able to drink
Fever < 38.5°C
Harsh stridor
Hoarse voice

Assess severity

Mild Croup
Normal respiratory rate
No recession
Normal pulse rate
Normal O2 sat
Normal conscious level

Management
Reassure
Send home with advice to return if worsens
Consider Dexamethasone 0.15mg/kg orally

Impression

Moderate Croup
Normal or raised respiratory rate
Mild recession
Air entry reduced but easily audible
Increased pulse rate
O2 sat > 93%
Normal conscious level

Management
Airway: Optimise positioning sitting up
Breathing: Oxygen via face mask
Call Paediatric SpR
Dexamethasone 0.15mg/kg orally or Budesonide 2mg nebulized
Observe for 2-3 hours
Consider Nebulized adrenaline for symptomatic relief, note transient effect

No Improvement

Severe Croup
Laboured breathing
Tachypnoea and recession
Air entry decreased and difficult to hear
Increased pulse rate
O2 sat < 93%
Altered conscious level

Management

Deterioration

Admit to ward
Lower threshold if less than 15 months or socially disadvantaged
Monitor respiratory rate and O2 saturation
Consider Budesonide nebulizer 12 hourly

Call for help
Paediatric, ENT and Anaesthetic teams should be present
Adrenaline nebulizer 5ml of 1:1000
If evidence of impending respiratory failure will need intubation and ventilation

Improvement
**Acute Stridor**
Upper airway obstruction

**Definition:** harsh respiratory noise produced by obstruction to breathing in the larynx or trachea, predominately inspiratory.
One of the features of upper airway obstruction together with hoarseness and barking cough
Leave the child in a comfortable position
**DO NOT insert tongue depressor or take blood or X-ray**

- **Croup**
  - **Symptoms**
    - Coryzal onset
    - No drooling
    - Barking cough
    - Able to drink
    - Harsh stridor
    - Hoarse voice
  - **Assess severity**

- **Epiglottitis**
  - **Symptoms**
    - Rapid onset
    - Toxic appearance
    - Drooling
    - Temp > 38.5°C
  - **Medical Emergencies**
    - Fast bleep
    - Paediatric team
    - Do not upset the Child
    - O2 only if tolerated
    - If deteriorates further crash call
      - Paediatric, anaesthetic and ENT teams

- **Membranous Croup**
  - **Symptoms**
    - Biphasic Stridor
    - Followed by pyrexia plus copious secretions

- **Foreign Body Inhalation**

- **Allergic Angioedema**
  - **Symptoms**
    - Skin rash (urticaria)
    - Puritis
    - With/without periorbital oedema

- **Thermal or Chemical damage to airway**

**Medical Emergencies**
Fast bleep
Paediatric team
Do not upset the Child
O2 only if tolerated
If deteriorates further crash call
Paediatric, anaesthetic and ENT teams

**Assess severity**

**Initiate resuscitation**
Assess severity
Follow Allergy / anaphylaxis guideline
Call paediatric team

**ABC**
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Initiate resuscitation
Assess severity
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