✓ Hepatic Encephalopathy Adult Panel

In making a diagnosis of hepatic encephalopathy, other causes of decreased level of consciousness must be considered. All patients with presumed hepatic encephalopathy need work up/treatment for potential precipitating factors (including but not limited to an infection screen with diagnostic paracentesis if they have ascites, medication assessment, screen for metabolic abnormalities, and assessment for evidence of GI bleeding).

Monitor Bowel Routine - Stool charting
Microbiology
Consider other investigations as clinically warranted.
Blood Culture Panel - Adult x 2
Urine Culture, Routine
Urine General Toxicology Panel
GR Chest 2 Projections Routine, Once
Medications
Special Authorization will be required if patient is to be discharged on Rifaxamin. - Special Authorization Form
Lactulose OR PEG 3350 (Acute followed by chronic treatment)
lactulose
lactulose PO
lactulose 667 mg/mL liquid oral 30 mL 30 mL, oral, every 2 hours, First dose today at 1445, For 24 hours until bowel movement or clinical improvement
lactulose NG
lactulose 667 mg/mL liquid oral 30 mL 30 mL, nasogastric tube, every 2 hours, First dose today at 1445, For 24 hours until bowel movement or clinical improvement
Followed By
lactulose 667 mg/mL liquid oral 15-30 mL 15-30 mL, nasogastric tube, 3 times per day, First dose tomorrow at 2100 Titrate dose to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day. Use caution with NG and recently banded varices.
 lactulose 667 mg/mL oral liquid for rectal use 300 mL 300 mL, rectal, every 4 hours, First dose today at 1445 300 mLs in 700 mLs of water rectally every 4 hours until clinical improvement. Retain for 30 to 60 minutes (use if unable to take oral therapy) Retention enema; retain for 30-60 minutes.
PEG 3350 PO/NG (consider with ileus, intolerance to lactulose)
PEG 3350 PO
polyethylene glycol 3350 powder 17 g 17 g, oral, every 2 hours, First dose today at 1445, For 24 hours until bowel movement or clinical improvement Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption.
For pediatric patient: Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 120 to 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption. 3.8 g is provided by 1 teaspoon (5 mL) powder 5.6 g is provided by 1.5 teaspoons (7.5 mL) powder 7.5 g is provided by 2 teaspoons (10 mL) powder, 11.8 g is provided by 1 tablespoon (15 mL) powder

Followed By

polyethylene glycol 3350 powder 17 g 17 g, oral, daily, First dose on Wed 24/11 at 0800 Titrate to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day. Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption.

For pediatric patient:

Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 120 to 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption. 3.8 g is provided by 1 teaspoon (5 mL) powder 5.6 g is provided by 1.5 teaspoons (7.5 mL) powder 7.5 g is provided by 2 teaspoons (10 mL) powder, 11.8 g is provided by 1 tablespoon (15 mL) powder

PEG 3350 NG

polyethylene glycol 3350 powder 17 g 17 g, nasogastric tube, every 2 hours, First dose today at 1445, For 24 hours until bowel movement or clinical improvement Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption.

For pediatric patient:

Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 120 to 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption. 3.8 g is provided by 1 teaspoon (5 mL) powder 5.6 g is provided by 1.5 teaspoons (7.5 mL) powder 7.5 g is provided by 2 teaspoons (10 mL) powder,

11.8 g is provided by 1 tablespoon (15 mL) powder

Followed By

polyethylene glycol 3350 powder 17 g 17 g, nasogastric tube, daily, First dose on Wed 24/11 at 0800 Titrate to achieve 2 to 3 soft bowel movements per day. Use caution with NG and recently banded varices. Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption.

For pediatric patient:

Dissolve powder by stirring dose into 120 to 250 mL of beverage prior to consumption. 3.8 g is provided by 1 teaspoon (5 mL) powder 5.6 g is provided by 1.5 teaspoons (7.5 mL) powder 7.5 g is provided by 2 teaspoons (10 mL) powder, 11.8 g is provided by 1 tablespoon (15 mL) powder

rifAXIMin tablet

550 mg, oral, 2 times per day, if intolerance to lactulose or patient has experienced greater than or equal to 2 overt hepatic encephalopathy episodes.

Lactulose or PEG (Chronic Treatment)

© 2021, Alberta Health Services, CKCM

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. The license does not apply to content for which the Alberta

Health Services instantiation of the copyright owner. To view a copy of this license, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/. Disclaimer: This material is intended for use by clinicians only and is provided on an "as is", "where is" basis. Although reasonable efforts were made to confirm the accuracy of the information, Alberta Health Services does not make any representation or warranty, express, implied or statutory, as to the accuracy, reliability, completeness, applicability or fitness for a particular purpose of such information. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health professional. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use.