



Care of unconscious patient

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Purpose

To maintain clear airway.

To protect from injury.

To maintain fluid and electrolyte balance.

To achieve intact oral mucous membrane.

maintain normal skin integrity.

To prevent corneal irritation.

To attain normal body temperature.

To promote urinary elimination.

To promote normal bowel function.

To prevent complications of prolonged immobility like pneumonia, deep vein thrombosis



Policies

Infection control policy should be followed.

Patient's rights and dignity must be uphold and respected.

Safety measure should be observed.



Procedures

Maintenance of clear airway.

Place the patient in lateral positions or semi-sitting position to prevent tongue from obstructing the airway.

Keep the airway free of secretions with efficient suctioning as needed.

Apply airway if necessary.

Prepare for insertion of cuffed endotracheal tube.

Give oxygen as prescribed.

Check pulse rate and blood pressure to evaluate circulatory adequacy/inadequacy.

Maintain circulation by keeping blood pressure at normal level and treat life-threatening cardiac dysrhythmias.



Protection from injury

Provide safety measures such as keeping the side rails always up.

Identify potential sources of injury (example: tight dressings, environmental irritants, damp bedding or dressing, tubes and drains) and do necessary measures.

Maintenance of fluid and electrolyte balance:

Assess mucous membranes and skin turgor for hydration status.

Administer and monitor IV fluids carefully.

Give parenteral and enteral feeding as ordered.

Achieving intact oral mucous membrane

Remove dentures if present. Inspect patient's mouth for dryness, inflammation and presence of crusting.

Do oral care every 2 hours with Betadine mouthwash.

Apply Vaseline lip emollient to prevent dryness and cracking.



Maintenance of Skin Integrity

Keep the patient skin clean, dry and free of pressures. Give complete bed bath twice daily.

Trim the patient's nail's carefully to prevent excoriation.

Turn the patient from side to side on a scheduled basis to relieve pressure areas.

Apply air mattress, and prevent wrinkles in the bed linens.

Passive limb exercise 3 times daily and AVI (Arteriovenous Impulses) stimulation every 8 hours

Maintenance of Corneal Integrity

Assess the eyes daily for corneal irritation or ulceration.

Irrigate eyes with saline to remove discharge and debris. Instill ophthalmic ointment on both eyes to prevent glazing or corneal ulceration. Cover with eye pads if necessary.



Maintenance of Normal Body Temperature

Look for possible sites of infection if patient has fever. Apply cooling measures such as giving cold sponge, cold IV fluids, reducing room temperature, removing excess linens, applying ice packs.

For hypothermic patients, apply warming blanket and other linens.

Promotion of Urinary Elimination

Palpate the bladder at intervals to detect urinary retention and an over distended bladder.

Monitor for fever and urine amount, color and turbidity. Inspect the urethral orifice for suppurative discharges.

Maintain strict intake and output record.

If patient has condom catheter, check the penis regularly for skin irritation and bruises. Do not apply condom catheter too tightly and should be changed daily.



Promotion of normal bowel elimination

Auscultate for bowel sounds. Palpate lower abdomen for distention.

Measure abdominal girth.

Observe for constipation (from immobility and lack of dietary fiber).

Perform rectal examination.

Stool softener maybe prescribed and to be given with tube feeding.

Glycerin suppository maybe prescribed to stimulate bowel emptying.

Monitor for diarrhea

Documentation