COVID-19 - Adult Nasoendoscopy (FNE) and Possible Upper Aerodigestive Tract Fish Bone Investigation

Aim: reduce the need to perform Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) whilst ensuring safety for patients and staff.

*PPE without FNE: fluid resistant surgical mask (type IIR) and risk assessment for eye protection.

**PPE for FNE: should be performed in designated higher risk acute care area with disposable, AAMI level 2 gown, gloves, FFP2/3 mask, eye protection and hat.

Emergency Department

*Clinical presentation
- Unreliable and inconsistent history of ingested fish bone
- No airway or oesophageal symptoms

Low risk history

Examination
Look
- clinically unwell yes/no
- respiratory distress yes/no
- significant swallowing difficulties yes/no
- drooling yes/no

Listen
- stertor/stridor yes/no
- dysphonia yes/no

Feel
- abnormal laryngeal crepitus yes/no
- surgical emphysema yes/no
- neck swelling yes/no

Examination findings excluded

Investigations
Lateral soft tissue neck X-ray – exclude the following:
- opaque FB yes/no
- surgical emphysema yes/no
- soft tissue widening yes/no
- upper oesophageal air yes/no

Ensure normal observations

Medical history unremarkable

Low risk presentation

Management:
- Patient to observe symptoms at home and return to A&E in 48 to 72 hours if no improvement

Medium risk presentation

**Management:
- Urgent same day FNE by senior decision maker
- If overnight, patient can return in the morning for FNE by senior decision maker

High risk presentation

**Management:
- ABCDE management (airway support +/- O2 administration)
- Emergent FNE by senior decision maker

With any abnormal findings

With airway (difficulty breathing) or oesophageal (unable to swallow) symptoms

With any abnormal findings

Abnormal observations

Lateral soft tissue neck X-ray with any of the following findings:
- opaque FB yes/no
- surgical emphysema yes/no
- soft tissue widening yes/no
- upper oesophageal air yes/no

With any abnormal finding

Investigations unremarkable

Medium risk history

High risk history

With reliable and consistent history of ingested fish bone

Examination findings excluded

Investigations

Reliable and consistent history of ingested fish bone

Management:
- Urgent same day FNE by senior decision maker
- If overnight, patient can return in the morning for FNE by senior decision maker

Examination findings excluded

Low risk history

Medium risk history

High risk history

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