Coma

1. A 5yo presents to the ED and on examination she withdraws to pain, is incoherent, and opens her eyes to painful stimulation. What is her Glasgow Coma Scale?

2. List the pertinent neurological examination of a patient who presents in a coma.

3. What is the primary objective in the management of a patient who presents in a coma?


5. 4 yo child brought in by parents who found him unresponsive in the back of their enclosed pick up truck. The family has been driving overnight to visit a sick relative. Mom has a headache and nausea and feels fatigued from the long drive. The pts vital signs are as follows: BP 135/85, RR 16, HR 160, sats 94% on RA, T100.5 (oral). He is pale, has pinpoint pupils, positive corneal reflexes, and a GCS of 9. Routine blood gas reveals 7.2/49/95/20/-6 with lactate of 6 (normal <2). Heat CT reveals mild diffuse cerebral edema in the basal ganglia. Name the etiology of the coma.

6. 10 yo presents unresponsive, hyperventilating, L dilated unresponsive pupil, R flexion of the upper extremity, HCT reveals R sided widening of temporal horn of the lateral ventricle. Name the herniation syndrome.

7. 10 yo presents unresponsive, having apneustic breathing (prolonged inspiratory pause at the end of inspiration), small pinpoint pupils, with bilateral extensor flexion of the upper extremities. Name the herniation syndrome.

8. 10 yo presents unresponsive, breathing pattern of crescendo-decrescendo rhythm followed by brief apnea, pupils are small sluggishly reactive, and legs stiffen and arm rigidly flex with tactile stimulation. Name the herniation syndrome.