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3rd April 2013

Dr Jane Hendtlass
Coroner

Dear Dr Hendtlass,

Re Coroner's report into Alyssa CHAN Inquest
Court Ref COR 2006 00104

Thank you for asking for a response in relation to your recommendations in this matter.

The Coroner has made a specific recommendation that:
"4. Royal Children's Hospital review their protocols in the light of changes introduced by Southern Health Pre and Post Liver Biopsy Protocol into their protocol in September 2006 and September 2008."

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented and was so prior to receipt of the Coroner's findings (most recent version May 2012). A printout of the electronic copy of the revision is attached (attachment 1).

The RCH liver biopsy protocol has in the past and continues to undergo regular review. Up until the present these have only been available as hard copies which are not present on either the intranet or internet. Two other documents relating to liver biopsies which provide practical in-house advice on booking and communication are also attached (attachments 2 and 3). These have also been updated recently.

The revision of the "Southern Health Paediatrics - Pre and Post Liver Biopsy Protocol" (CP-PD09, Version 1.4 September 2006) was I understand updated specifically to include directions on requiring measurements of blood pressure as part of pre and post biopsy monitoring. This has always been (and continues to be) part of the RCH protocol – (see attachment 1) and so no changes have been necessary in this area.

An additional issue at Southern Health identified by the Coroner had been the failure to keep records of blood pressure, pulse and respiration during the liver biopsy anaesthetic. I understand that pre-biopsy haemodynamic parameters now form part of the Southern Health Record. In contrast to the historical practice at Southern Health (para 111, page 33 of Coroner's Report), measurement and recording of blood pressure, pulse and respiration has and continues to form part of standard anaesthetic monitoring for liver biopsies and other procedures at RCH. The protocol at RCH has not required any change in this area for this standard anaesthetic practice.

I trust that my responses are helpful in your deliberations.

Regards



Professor Anthony G Catto-Smith
Director, Dept of Gastroenterology and Clinical Nutrition

Attachments:

1. Liver Biopsy. Standard post-operative orders. Revised Wednesday May 09, 2012.
2. Liver Biopsies and Ultrasound. Revised Friday April 09, 2010.
3. Liver Biopsy. Revised Tuesday January 18, 2011.

Liver biopsy

Standard post-operative orders

- Observations of heart rate, blood pressure, respirations, and BIOPSY SITE
 - Every 15 minutes for 2 hours
 - Every 30 minutes for 1 hour
 - Every 4 hours until discharge

- Contact RMO if patient has:
 - Bleeding
 - Pallor
 - Abdominal pain
 - Abdominal distension
 - Systolic BP drops to less than
 - Diastolic BP drops to less than
 - Heart rate drops to less than
 - Heart rate increased to more than

- IV line
 - Keep in situ and patent until the following morning

- Oral intake
 - When awake, commence with water, clear drinks, breast milk and / or formula
 - Increase to light diet, then full diet as tolerated

- Discharge criteria
 - Patient should be discharged 0900 the day after the biopsy
 - Review by Medical Officer
 - Observations normal
 - Diet and fluids tolerated
 - Discharge summary completed
 - Prescriptions written if necessary
 - Follow up arranged

Liver biopsies and ultrasound

Monday mornings and Friday mornings

-US is in ortho, so can't come to theatre, unless last or 1st on list, and booked well in advance to main US can under book

Afternoon lists suit US better, but we have more difficulty getting over night beds for Pm liver biopsies

Our theatre lists used to be Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays

They are now Mondays, Fridays, and occasionally Tuesday afternoons

As well as Ultrasound being understaffed just at the moment, the mobile US is booked solidly to Orthopaedics on Monday and Friday mornings

The only possible way US could be available, would be to book the liver biopsies for last on the Monday AM list, and to book them well in advance so US can organize finish in ortho early (Cain is the only person available on Mondays)

On Friday mornings they could be done 1st or last on the am list ONLY if booked well in advance so US can block the appropriate times

In general, afternoons suit US better, but we have more difficulty getting post op beds for these patients if the biopsies are done on a PM list

And then it mainly depends on which consultant is doing the biopsy as to which list it is on!

Di Simpson

Friday, April 09, 2010

Liver biopsy

Complete (with help of consultant)

- Admission form
- consent form MR132
- Medical Imaging request for ultrasound guidance of liver biopsy
- Pathology request for grouping & xmatching, clotting, FBE & ?other

Ideally book for last on an am theatre list, or at 1330 on a pm theatre list

Patient to attend pathology prior to admission

ie go to pathology at 0830 for an 11.30am biopsy, or 0900-1000 to pathology for a pm biopsy

Send blood request to family, with other information

Book ultrasound & send them Xray request form – note time & date & location of biopsy (CP1) clearly on request card

Discuss timing of biopsy with parents, noting date, time, pathology, admission & fasting details

Send parents -confirming letter – see proforma

Send to waiting list

- admission form
- consent form
- liver biopsy clinical path
- liver biopsy treatment orders (green)

enter on HASS - 30409 30minutes

Patients are admitted to PSC / DSU, then transferred to the 23 hour ward post op
See “23 hour ward” folder

Liver biopsies are sometimes done by an interventional radiologist on a Gastro list

Liver biopsies are often done on an Angio list by an interventional radiologist

- ☺ booked with Radiology
- ☺ Gastro must book a post op (23 hour) bed
 - Contact bed management 4000 or email
- ☺ Gastroenterologist needs to do
 - Medical imaging request
 - Pre-op blood request
 - Histology request
 - +/- consent ideally get consent, then radiologist to get consent as well

UR:

Re:

..... 's admission has been booked for

At 9.00am that morning, please bring into the Pathology and Blood Collection area to have a blood sample taken (*the request card is enclosed*). Pathology is located on the ground floor of the main hospital building.

At 12.00md you are to present to the Day of Surgery Centre (take the silver lifts to the 2nd floor))

..... 's liver biopsy will be done under anaesthetic that afternoon.

..... **will need to fast before the biopsy**

- She may have food and milk until 7.30am
- She may have clear drinks (water, cordial, apple juice) until 11.30am
- She must fast completely from 11.30am

Following the biopsy ,will be transferred to the ward and will remain in hospital overnight for observation.

If you have any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

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