Bronchiolitis

Refer to KIDSNTS for advice - 0300 200 1100

Bronchiolitis is a common condition, however there are some children who will become very unwell with the disease.
Risk factors for severe disease:

- <12 weeks
- Immunodeficiency
- Ex-Premature,
- CLD, on home oxygen: What is the usual O2 requirement, CO2 target
- Infants with neuro-muscular disease: **Risk of masked respiratory failure**
- Infants with Congenital Heart Disease: **Think heart failure! What is the usual saturations target?**
- Consider RESPECT or advance care planning documents

Initial Treatment

- Ensure patent airway - suction nose & mouth
- Aim for SpO2 ≥90% (humidified O2)
- Correct dehydration ▪ monitor for apnoeas (particularly if < 6/52 age)
- If moderate or severe respiratory distress
    - Stop feeds & site nasogastric tube
    - Commence IV fluids (80% maintenance)
- Consider sedation if agitated (chloral hydrate 30-50 mg/kg NG/PR)
- Antibiotic only indicated if bacterial infection suspected

Differential diagnosis
- Bacterial pneumonia
- Aspiration
- Tracheomalacia
- Virus-induced wheeze or asthma
- Myocarditis
- Congenital heart disease
- Pertussis (may co-exist in up to 7-25%)
- Inhaled foreign body

Investigations

- NPA for immunofluorescence if out of season
- NPA for PCR if likely to require PICU admission
- CXR if severe or diagnosis uncertain or murmur present
- FBC, U/E's & blood cultures (if features of sepsis)
- Blood gases as clinically indicated for evidence of respiratory failure

Indications for respiratory support

- Apnoeas
- Respiratory distress
- Hypercapnia with acidosis
- Altered conscious level
- Clinical exhaustion.

Respiratory support

- Start high-flow nasal cannula O2 (1-3 L/kg)
- Change to CPAP (6-10 cmH2O)if worsening or severe respiratory distress
- If clinically escalating, call local, on call consultant for support
- Call for anaesthetic help if patient deteriorating
- If deteriorating and/or at high risk of transfer, call KIDS for advice (0300 200 1100)
- If intubation is indicated, do not wait for retrieval service