

BOWEL/STOMA WASHOUT PROTOCOL

Rationale

To relieve constipation if there is no bowel movements- as per consultant request.

To empty the bowel of faecal contents prior to surgery to minimise the risk of infection.

To prevent enter colitis prior to surgery for Hirschsprungs disease

Practice

- Size 10/12 Jacques (Nelaton) red rubber catheter. See below for storage place.
- Bladder syringe. See below for storage place.
- 20mls/kg normasol (Lister and Irving 1990)
- Aqueous gel
- Gloves
- Jug or galley pot to collect drainage
- Nappy or towels
- Washout Care Plan

Procedure.

- *Check with the Consultant whether the washout is to be *Rectal, Nonfunctioning Stoma* or *both*.*
- *Check with the Consultant as to how far to pass the catheter e.g.: is this a rectal or higher bowel washout and length for stoma.*

- Ensure the infant is warm prior to commencing the procedure, to prevent hypothermia.
- Warm more normasol than needed in warm water.
- Measure out 20mls/kg of normasol into a bowel, fluid should be lukewarm.
- Attach bladder syringe to red Jacques catheter.
- Lubricate catheter tip with gel to aid advancement into the rectum.
- Insert the catheter approx 10cm into rectum. This may be much further if indicated by the surgeons.
- Using 5-10mls at a time (using total of 20mls/kg) allow lukewarm saline to infuse into the rectum by gravity, a gentle plunge may be needed to start the flow.

- Detach the syringe and allow fluid to drain from the catheter into jug/pot, observing the colour of the fluid obtained and also ensuring that all the fluid has drained away. Continue to do this until all the fluid has been used. It may help to massage the abdomen on a clockwise direction and or move the catheter to aid removal of stool.
- Record each washout and the result on the washout careplan.
- Washouts should be performed at the consultants discretion and at a time that co-insides with the infants care to prevent unnecessary handling of the infant.

- STORAGE.

- Jacques (Nelaton) Red Rubber catheters are kept in the blue plastic Surgical Box in the Treatment room, or on the bottom shelf below the suction catheters, in bright blue boxes, of the cupboard by the main doors. Please order more boxes before they run out.

- Bladder syringes are also kept in the cupboard behind the door. Please order another box before they run out.

References

- Lister J. Irving M. (1990) Neonatal Surgery. Butterworth and co. London

- Spitz L. Conran A. (1995) Operative Surgery. Chapman and Hall. London