Module 4 Overview: Coma and Convulsion

Learning objectives

- Accurately assess consciousness using the AVPU coma scale.
- Recognize a child in coma.
- Recognize a child having a convulsion.
- Determine amount and type of fluid to treat low blood sugar.
- Understand when to give anticonvulsants.
- Choose the appropriate anticonvulsant and dose to treat a child having a convulsion.
- Demonstrate how to give medications rectally.

Participants

- Healthcare providers in any facility who are likely to manage sick patients, including physicians, nurses, and assistants.
- Teachers and trainers for healthcare professionals

Teaching tools

- Lecture: The module begins with a lecture that reviews assessment of altered mental status and convulsions. Basic skills that are covered in the presentation include airway management, using a glucometer, and giving rectal medications. The management of hypoglycemia and convulsions is also discussed.
- Practical: There are instructions for facilitators that describe general principles for teaching a practical station as well as each procedure that the participants should learn and demonstrate. There is an exercise to practice calculating glucose, fluid, and anticonvulsant doses.

Equipment (see facilitator manual, p 62)

- Practical station
  1. Glucometer and test strips (if available)
  2. Tuberculin syringes, lubricant, and a manikin for demonstration and practice of rectal anticonvulsant administration
  3. Job aids for calculating glucose and anticonvulsant doses

Assessment questions: Pre and post test questions and answers to be used with Module 4 when course is given in a modular fashion are included in the course material. There are also homework questions on pages 41-42 of the ETAT participant manual. The answers to the questions are on pages 74-75 of the ETAT facilitator manual.