Introduction

This pathway was developed by an interdisciplinary clinical team from SickKids using research knowledge, clinical experience, and consensus agreement. This is a general guideline and does not represent a professional care standard governing providers’ obligations to patients.

Target Audience:

- **Inclusion**: Children aged 2-18 years old with no underlying disease or comorbidity who have been required to have a laparoscopic splenectomy by the General Surgery Team.

- **Exclusion**:
  - Patients are to be removed from this pathway if there are significant underlying disease, significant postoperative complications (e.g. bowel obstruction or prolonged TPN) or a change in diagnosis; and
  - **If a patient has Sickle Cell Disease please consult hematology for guidance on fluids, oxygen, and pain management. These patients are pre-admitted the day before surgery**

- Care should be revised to meet individual patient needs.

Target Users:

- Surgeons, Nurse Practitioners, residents, fellow, and nurses on ward.
## Laparoscopic Splenectomy Care Pathway

**Expected Date of Discharge:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE-OPERATIVE</th>
<th>IMMEDIATELY POST OPERATIVELY</th>
<th>POST OP DAY #1</th>
<th>DISCHARGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Patient prepared for OR</td>
<td>3. Antimicrobial as tolerated</td>
<td>3. Antimicrobial as tolerated</td>
<td>3. Antimicrobial as tolerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Incision intact, no drainage, dry and intact</td>
<td>5. Incision intact, no drainage, dry and intact</td>
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<td>5. Incision intact, no drainage, dry and intact</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Physical Exam
- Obtain history
- Complete physical exam
- Assess vital signs
- Complete pain assessment (refer to Pain Assessment Guidelines)
- Obtain accurate in and out

### Fluids & Electrolytes
- Ensure patient is NPO
- Administer 0.5 ml/kg 0.9% NaCl with 20 mmol KCl/L at maintenance
- Bolus as indicated
- Refer to Fluid and Electrolyte Guidelines

### Diet & Nutrition
- Clear fluids diet as tolerated
- Administer 0.5 ml/kg 0.9% NaCl with 20 mmol KCl/L at maintenance
- Bolus as indicated
- Refer to Fluid and Electrolyte Guidelines

### Activity & Education
- Activity: as tolerated
- Consent for surgery
- Review pre-op procedures for child and caregiver
- Educate family about post splenectomy sequla (fever, chills, malaise, myalgia, diaphoresis or vomiting)
- Consider medical alert bracelet

### Activity: as tolerated
- Activity: out of bed to chair
- When diet will be started
- Review need for pain management
- Review need for mobilization
- Review need for parental involvement in care

### Activity: out of bed to bathroom
- Review incision care: leave dressings until fall of 3
- Review incision care: leave dressings until fall of 3
- May return to normal daily activities as tolerated

### Implementation Plan

**Guideline Group and Reviewers**

**Guideline Group Membership**
1. Monping Chiang RN (EC), MS, FNP General Surgery
2. Fatma A. Rajwani PT, Quality Analyst, Quality Management Department

**Internal Reviewers**
1. Annie Fecteau, MD Chief of General and Thoracic Surgery

**External Reviewer**
1. Sharifa Himidan MD North York General Hospital

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• Education and awareness building by General Surgery Program (Surgeons, NPs, fellows, nurse educator) at: fellow orientation (once per year) nursing orientation (every 3 months), and residents orientation (every month).
• Surgeons to communicate any updates in practice to Division of General Surgery.

References


Attachments:

Lap_spleen_final_2019.pdf