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>
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<td>7. Able to tolerate clear (immediately post-op)</td>
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<td>8. Inclusion: no drainage, dry and intact; Bowel sounds present</td>
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### Physical Exam
- Obtain history
- Complete physical exam
- Assess vital signs
- Complete pain assessment (refer to Pain Management Guidelines)
- Obtain accurate in and out

### Laboratory
- Ensure that patient is NPO
- Administer 5% Dextrose with 0.9 NaCl at maintenance
- Baseline as indicated
- Refer to Fluid and Electrolyte Guidelines

### Care & Medication
- Check CVC with differential
- Check for bleeding
- Ensure immunizations are complete: Streptococcus pneumoniae, Haemophilus influenzae, and Hemophilus influenzae

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

### Activity: as tolerated
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**Guideline Group and Reviewers**

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

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

**External Reviewer**
- Sharifa Himidan MD North York General Hospital

**Implementation Plan**
• 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