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>4. Child/child is achieved of pre-op bath. Wipes to be used upon arrival. Refer to procedure document</td>
<td>4. Able to tolerate clear (immediately post-op)</td>
<td>4. Able to tolerate diet</td>
<td>4. Able to tolerate diet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Incision intact, no drainage, dry and intact</td>
<td>5. Incision dry &amp; intact</td>
<td>5. Incision dry &amp; intact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Implementation Plan

**Activity & Education**
- Activity: as tolerated
- Consent for surgery
- Review pre-op procedures for child and caregiver
- Educate family about post splenectomy care. (blood, stools, malaise, myalgias, diaphoresis or vomiting)
- Consider medical alert bracelet

**Activity**: out of bed to chair
- When diet will be started
- Review need for pain management
- Review need for mobility
- Review need for parental involvement in care

**Activity**: out of bed to bathroom and ambulating in balance at least 5 times
- Review incision care: leave staples until fall of skin
- First care or remove after 10 days, once staples removed, may wash incision gently with soap & water
- Review labelling: may shower or bath 48 hours after surgery
- May walk 60 hours post surgery
- May return to normal daily activities as tolerated
- Review signs and symptoms of infection: fever, redness around incision, drainage from incision, increasing pain around incision, fluid accumulations under incision

## 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

## PRINTABLE VERSION
• 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