Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Common Childhood Infections

Child Health Nursing

Measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, pertussis, diphtheria, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, dengue, malaria, typhoid and other common childhood infections.

For educational purposes only.

CHAPTER 07 / CHILD HEALTH NURSING 07. Common Childhood Infections

1. Assessment and transmission

Assess age, immunization, exposure, fever duration, rash, hydration, breathing, consciousness and travel. Children may deteriorate quickly; inability to drink/breastfeed, persistent vomiting, convulsions, lethargy or severe respiratory distress are urgent signs. Obtain appropriate specimens and apply infection precautions without delaying urgent care.

Measles

Definition and pathophysiology: Airborne viral infection.

Clinical features and investigations: Fever, cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, Koplik spots, descending rash; confirmation per surveillance.

Management and nursing care: Airborne isolation, supportive care, prescribed vitamin A per age/protocol, assess pneumonia/dehydration and notify public health; MR prevention.

Mumps and rubella

Definition and pathophysiology: Mumps affects salivary glands; rubella often mild rash illness, serious fetal risk if pregnancy exposed.

Clinical features and investigations: Mumps parotid swelling, fever; rubella fine rash, posterior auricular nodes; testing as indicated.

Management and nursing care: Supportive care, appropriate droplet precautions, protect pregnant contacts from rubella, vaccination according to schedule.

Chickenpox

Definition and pathophysiology: Varicella-zoster virus, airborne/contact transmission.

Clinical features and investigations: Pruritic crops of vesicles, fever; potential bacterial skin or neurological complications.

Management and nursing care: Airborne/contact precautions until appropriate resolution, skin care, hydration; antiviral for eligible high-risk patients. Avoid aspirin in children with viral illness.

Pertussis and diphtheria

Definition and pathophysiology: Bacterial respiratory diseases; pertussis toxin causes paroxysmal cough, diphtheria toxin may injure heart/nerves.

Clinical features and investigations: Pertussis whoop/apnoea in infants; diphtheria adherent pharyngeal pseudomembrane and neck swelling.

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Management and nursing care: Urgent respiratory assessment, droplet precautions, appropriate antibiotics; diphtheria antitoxin and cardiac monitoring per specialist, do not forcibly remove membrane. Contact management and vaccines.

TB and poliomyelitis

Definition and pathophysiology: TB airborne bacterial disease; polio virus spreads mainly faeco-orally.

NURSE'S CONTENT / CHILD HEALTH NURSING 12

B.SC. NURSING / CHAPTER-WISE STUDY NOTES

Clinical features and investigations: TB persistent cough, fever, poor weight gain/contact; polio acute flaccid paralysis may occur.

Management and nursing care: National TB diagnosis/treatment and contact screening; urgent report acute flaccid paralysis, supportive/rehab care and polio prevention.

Dengue and malaria

Definition and pathophysiology: Mosquito-borne infections.

Clinical features and investigations: Dengue fever, aches, warning signs at defervescence; malaria fever, chills, anaemia, possible seizures.

Management and nursing care: Test per timing; malaria therapy by species/severity; careful dengue fluid monitoring, avoid NSAIDs; urgent review for shock, bleeding, lethargy or altered consciousness.

Typhoid and other enteric infections

Definition and pathophysiology: Faeco-oral bacterial/viral infection.

Clinical features and investigations: Sustained fever, abdominal symptoms, diarrhoea; blood culture for suspected typhoid, stool tests selected.

Management and nursing care: Prescribed antibiotics when indicated, ORS or IV support, monitor dehydration and complications, food/water sanitation.

2. Nursing care

Maintain hydration, nutrition and comfort, monitor age-specific vitals, intake/output, skin and consciousness. Educate caregivers on completion of indicated treatment, prevention, isolation duration and when to return; document and report notifiable disease per policy.

3. Important Examination Questions

Long Answer Questions

1. 1. Describe measles, pertussis, TB and dengue nursing management.

Short Answer Questions

1. 1. Compare mumps/rubella
2. 2. explain malaria warning signs
3. 3. list infection prevention measures.

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Very Short Answer Questions (with answers)

1. 1. What is coryza? - Nasal inflammation/runny nose.
2. 2. Which disease causes acute flaccid paralysis surveillance? - Suspected polio and other AFP causes.

4. Quick Revision

- Young infants can have apnoea with pertussis.
- Measles needs airborne precautions.
- Dengue warning signs may appear as fever resolves.

5. Conclusion

Young infants can have apnoea with pertussis. Measles needs airborne precautions. Dengue warning signs may appear as fever resolves.

NURSE'S CONTENT / CHILD HEALTH NURSING 13

B.SC. NURSING / CHAPTER-WISE STUDY NOTES

Practice questions

Choose one best answer. The answer key and explanations follow the questions.

1. Which infection is associated with Koplik spots and a descending rash?

A. Mumps
B. Pertussis
C. Measles
D. Malaria

2. Which manifestation of pertussis is especially relevant in young infants?

A. Barking cough with hoarseness
B. Wheeze after allergen exposure
C. Stridor with drooling
D. Apnoea

3. When may dengue warning signs become apparent?

A. As the fever resolves
B. Only before fever develops
C. Only after the rash disappears
D. Only during the first hour of illness

Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

Answer key and explanations

1. C - Measles

Measles commonly includes cough, coryza, conjunctivitis, Koplik spots and descending rash.

2. D - Apnoea

Young infants with pertussis may have apnoea.

3. A - As the fever resolves

Dengue warning signs may occur at defervescence.

Source and attribution

Online chapter: https://nursescontent.com/learn/child-health-nursing/unit-07-common-childhood-infections/

Downloaded from Nurses Content. Branding identifies the delivery website. Original author credits, third-party licences and applicable rights remain unchanged.