Paediatric sedation for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures by UK non anaesthetists – an alternative to NICE Guidance 112

Dr Andy Fearnley MA MBBS FRCA, Dr Meera Kurup FRCA, Dr Elizabeth Hayward BM BS FRCA, Elizabeth Watt BSc RN 4 and Dr Cathie Hill FANZCA FCICM

1[King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust]

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND:

- Demand for sedation in children undergoing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures is increasing [1].
- Anaesthetists are increasingly supported by non anaesthetic specialists working in non operating theatre environments [1].
- The national institute for clinical excellence (NICE) has issued guidance for such procedures within the NHS[3]. Our institution operates a protocol that differs from NICE guidance.

OBJECTIVES:

- To assess compliance with our sedation protocol, success rates, incidence of complications and reasons for failure.

METHODS:

- Retrospective analysis of medical records for 99 consecutive paediatric patients undergoing sedation for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures was.

RESULTS:

- 60 painless and 39 painful procedures were analysed.
- Compliance with our sedation protocol was 92% and 84% for painless and painful procedures respectively.
- The success rate was 90% and 100% for painless and painful procedures respectively.
- The most common reason for failure for painful procedures was the need to move a child during CT or MRI scanning.

CONCLUSIONS:

- The success rate and incidence of complications seen with the use of our sedation protocol appears acceptable.
- Higher success rates and lower complication rates have been reported with the use of intravenous or volatile anaesthetic agents [2].
- Provision of anaesthetic services to enable the use of anaesthetic agents such as propofol exceeds the capacity of our anaesthetic department and that of many other hospitals.
- A sedation protocol that can be used by non anaesthetic staff is a viable alternative option in our jurisdiction.

REFERENCES


For additional information please contact:
Dr Andy Fearnley
Department of Anaesthesia
King’s College Hospital, London, UK
andy.fearnley@knhns.net