Reviewer's report

Title: What is the easier and more reliable dose calculation for iv Phenytoin in children at risk for developing convulsive status epilepticus, 18 mg/kg or 20 mg/kg?

Version: 1 Date: 27 December 2012

Reviewer: philippe hubert

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

In Background: neurological sequelea (instead of squeal).

In Methods: senior house officer add (SHO)

In Results: Data was collected (instead of collated) from the...

In Discussion: "The iv infusion of Phenytoin does sometimes cause adverse cardiovascular effects e.g. Bradycardia" add and hypotension;

Discretionary Revisions

in Abstract: "Objective: This was educational exercise. With the Convulsive Status Guidelines due for renewal, we wondered if a phenytoin dose of '20 mg/kg' would be easier to calculate correctly and therefore safer than the current '18 mg/kg'. " I suggest the following change:

Objective: With the Convulsive Status Guidelines due for renewal, we wondered if a phenytoin dose of '20 mg/kg' would be easier to calculate correctly and therefore safer than the current '18 mg/kg'. An educational exercise in dose calculation was used to test this hypothesis.

In Background: “The 2000 guideline by the ‘Status Epilepticus Working Party’ for treating and preventing status epilepticus by treating prolonged convulsive seizures (lasting more that 5 or 10 minutes) in children in the UK, advised infusion of 18 mg/kg of Phenytoin by slow intravenous (iv) infusion over 20 minutes as a third line treatment if other treatments (generally benzodiazepines) had failed to control the seizure. (7)” I suggest the following change:

The 2000 guideline by the ‘Status Epilepticus Working Party’ recommend to prevent status epilepticus in children in the UK by treating convulsive seizures lasting more that 5 or 10 minutes, and advised infusion of 18 mg/kg of Phenytoin by slow intravenous (iv) infusion over 20 minutes as a third line treatment if other treatments (generally benzodiazepines) had failed to control the seizure. (7)

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no financial or non-financial competing interests' below