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Guillain-Barre Syndrome

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Introduction

Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a group of neuropathic conditions that are characterized by a rapid onset and variability in duration, symptoms, and severity. It is the leading cause of neuromuscular weakness in patients of all ages and is associated with a variety of autoimmune and infectious factors. The syndrome is primarily due to an inflammatory response against myelin, which can result in axonal degeneration and functional impairment. This condition is often asymptomatic, and its diagnosis is typically made by clinical features and supportive laboratory tests. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a heterogeneous condition with varying severity and outcomes, and it is important to recognize the early signs and symptoms to provide timely treatment and intervention to prevent complications and improve outcomes. Understanding the underlying pathophysiology and current treatment options is crucial for improved patient care and outcomes.

Underlying Pathophysiology

Subtypes of GBS include AIDP, AMAN, acute motor and sensory axonal neuropathy (AMSAN), acute sensory neuropathy (ASAN) and Miller-Fisher syndrome. Electrophysiology is an important clinical tool for diagnosis and may assist in differentiating between various GBS subtypes. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is characterized by an inflammatory response against myelin, which can result in axonal degeneration and functional impairment. This condition is often asymptomatic, and its diagnosis is typically made by clinical features and supportive laboratory tests. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a heterogeneous condition with varying severity and outcomes, and it is important to recognize the early signs and symptoms to provide timely treatment and intervention to prevent complications and improve outcomes. Understanding the underlying pathophysiology and current treatment options is crucial for improved patient care and outcomes.

Implications For Nursing Care

According to Dube et al. (2016) “urinary retention, often a sign of autonomic dysfunction, is also an important sign of Guillain-Barre syndrome. It is important for nurses to monitor for this sign, as it can be a predictor of disease severity. Nurses should also be aware of the potential for respiratory distress, which can be a sign of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).” ARDS is a severe and life-threatening complication of Guillain-Barre syndrome and requires prompt treatment to prevent further organ failure and mortality.

Signs & Symptoms

The initial symptoms are often characterized by symmetrically distributed muscle weakness and are typically accompanied by pain. The severity and distribution of the symptoms can vary widely, and they may include muscle weakness, tingling, numbness, and loss of sensation. The presence of urinary retention is often a marker of autonomic dysfunction, which can indicate a severe form of Guillain-Barre syndrome. Other common symptoms include respiratory distress, which can be a sign of acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Respiratory distress can be a severe and life-threatening complication of Guillain-Barre syndrome and requires prompt treatment to prevent further organ failure and mortality.

Mechanism of Guillain-Barré Syndrome

It is of utmost importance to understand the pathophysiology of Guillain-Barré Syndrome to provide appropriate and timely intervention. The condition is primarily due to an inflammatory response against myelin, which may result in axonal degeneration and functional impairment. The presence of autonomic dysfunction, including urinary retention, is often a marker of severe disease and requires prompt treatment.

Significance of Pathophysiology

Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a heterogeneous condition with varying severity and outcomes, and it is important to recognize the early signs and symptoms to provide timely treatment and intervention to prevent complications and improve outcomes. Understanding the underlying pathophysiology and current treatment options is crucial for improved patient care and outcomes. Guillain-Barre Syndrome is a common and serious condition that requires prompt and appropriate intervention to prevent complications and improve outcomes.

References


Conclusion

Guillain-Barre Syndrome can occur in any patient. It typically involves initial insult from injury or exposure to an infection, leading to demyelination of the nerves. Understanding risk factors and how GBS presents itself can aid in early diagnosis and treatment for these caring for patients be educated on the signs and symptoms, and be prepared to intervene as necessary to reduce the risk of complications. Interdisciplinary collaboration and careful management can help to reduce the length of recovery and promote better outcomes for affected individuals.