Safer Care Victoria

Maternity and Newborn Clinical Network

Eclampsia: Management

CALL FOR HELP
Code or MET Call

Resuscitate
- Ensure patent airway
- Oxygen – 10 L/min via mask
- IV access

Control Blood Pressure
- Aim for BP <160/100 mmHG

Commence $MgSO_4$
- Loading dose: 4 g IV over 20 minutes
- Maintenance dose: 1 g IV per hour

Do not prescribe $MgSO_4$ before discussion with obstetric consultant

When woman is stable – deliver the baby
- Continuous CTG while waiting for delivery
- Senior paediatric clinician to attend delivery

Prevent further seizures
- Continue $MgSO_4$ for 24 hours from birth or last seizure

Before discontinuing $MgSO_4$, ensure
- BP stable (consistently <150/100)
- Adequate diuresis
- Woman clinically improved, with no headache or epigastric pain

Monitor for magnesium toxicity
- $MgSO_4$ serum levels **must** be taken:
  - if there are signs of toxicity
  - for women with renal impairment and/or low urine output (<30 ml/hr)
- Serum levels **may** be taken 6-hourly during infusion

Acute treatment

Do not allow BP to fall below 140/80
- Nifedipine, maximum 40mg, oral
- Labetalol, 20-80mg, IV bolus over 2 minutes
- Hydralazine, 5-10mg, IV bolus over 5 minutes administered by a medical officer, or IM injection

Fluid restriction
- Nil by mouth
- 80 ml/hr IV crystalloid

Observations
- During loading dose:
  - 5-minutely BP, pulse and respiratory rates
- At completion of loading dose, record BP, PR, RR and deep tendon reflexes
- During maintenance dose:
  - hourly BP, PR and RR
  - hourly urine output
  - hourly deep tendon reflexes
- Record strict fluid balance

Signs of magnesium toxicity
- Decreased deep tendon reflexes
- Respiratory rate <12 breaths per minute
- Reduced urine output: < 40mL/hr
- Serum magnesium concentration >3.5mmol/L

Antidote for magnesium toxicity
- 10% calcium gluconate 10 mL IV

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 03 9096 1308, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email **info@safercare.vic.gov.au**

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

ISBN 978-1-76069-456-2 (online/print)

Available at www.bettersafercare.vic.gov.au (1708009)

VICTORIA State Government

Printed copies of this document may not be the most recent version.