Croup Pathway
Clinical assessment / management tool for children with croup

Management - Acute Care Setting

Suspected Croup
- Barking cough
- Stridor
- Mild fever
- Coryza
- Miserable

Features of impending airway compromise

Complete observation +/− PEWS score

Consider differential:
FB (acute onset, choking episode, lack of coryza, fever etc),
Epiglottitis and tracheitis (high fever, very unwell, unable to swallow saliva)

Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Green - Low Risk</th>
<th>Amber - Intermediate Risk</th>
<th>Red – high risk</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
<td>• Alert</td>
<td>• Alert</td>
<td>• Disorientated or drowsy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sats</td>
<td>• &gt;94% Pink</td>
<td>• &gt;94% Pink</td>
<td>• &lt;94% pale or cyanosed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>• Stridor only when upset</td>
<td>• Stridor at rest</td>
<td>• Biphasic stridor (May be quiet if life threatening)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No recession</td>
<td>• Some recession</td>
<td>• Severe recession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Normal air entry</td>
<td>• Decreased air entry</td>
<td>• Severely decreased air entry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Green Action
- Reassure
- Consider analgesia with ibuprofen +/- paracetamol
- Dexamethasone 0.15mg/kg PO
- Home with clear guidance and provide them with patient advice sheet.

Amber Action
- Keep child and family calm
- Analgesia with ibuprofen +/- paracetamol
- Dexamethasone 0.15mg/kg PO
- Keep in department until no stridor at rest and no recession

Red Action
- Keep child and family calm
- Move to resus for immediate paediatric assessment +/- 2222 call
- Adrenaline neb (0.4ml/kg 1:1000 up to 5ml)
- High flow oxygen as tolerated
- Dexamethasone up to 0.6mg/kg (max 12mg) orally and consider budesonide nebuliser 2mg
- Analgesia with ibuprofen +/- paracetamol
- Locate difficult airway equipment
- Consider SORT/PICU /ENT

NO

IMPROVED

YES