

BRAIN DEATH

AGE _____ UNIT NO: _____

DOCTOR 2

DIAGNOSIS Dr. D. Webb
Anaesthetic Bedlam
(Condition leading to brainstem death)

1. DRUGS/HYPOTHERMIA

- Have any muscle relaxants been given during the preceding 12 hrs?
- Could any significant neuromuscular blockade remain?
- Could other drugs affecting ventilation or level of consciousness been responsible for the patient's condition?

d. Is the rectal temperature below 35°C?

- Is the blood pressure adequate and stable?
- Could patient's condition be due to a metabolic/endocrine disorder?

2. BRAINSTEM REFLEXES

- Do the pupils react to light?
- Is conjugate deviation of the eyes induced by instilling ice cold water on each eye (Caloric test)?
- Is any eye movement present when head rotated (Doll's eye reflex)?
- Does any response occur when each cornea in turn is touched?
- Is there any response to painful stimuli in the area supplied by the cranial nerves?
- Is there a gag reflex or reflex response following bronchial stimulation by a suction catheter passed down the trachea?

3. APNOEA TEST

- Is there any evidence of spontaneous respiration?
- Did PaCO₂ rise above 50 mmHG during apnoea test?
- Was there any evidence of spontaneous respiration during apnoeic period?

1st testing

2nd testing

SIGNED: Doctor 1

Dr. Webb

Dr. Webb

Doctor 2

R. Campbell

MacGowan

Has organ donation been considered? YES

Is this a Coroner's case? YES

GUIDELINES FOR MULTIPLE ORGAN RETRIEVAL

- Blood should be sent to the Virology Laboratory RVH, for Hepatitis B, HIV and CMV antibody titres. If not already available the patient's blood group must be ascertained.
- Perform first set of brain stem tests. After this speak to parents about the concept of organ donation. Give them approximate timing of second set of brain stem tests.
- Inform UK Transplant Service (UKTS) in Bristol (0272 507777) about the potential organ donor.
Information required - age, height, weight, abdominal girth, FBP, LFTs, U&E and creatinine.
- If a kidney only donation is anticipated, page the on call Consultant Nephrologist, Belfast City Hospital (329241). Have information regarding the use of inotropes, antibiotics and other drugs, blood gas analysis, blood pressure and urinary output.
- Perform second set of brain stem tests. Ensure brain stem death form is completed.
- Inform parents that a diagnosis of brain stem death has been made. Request consent for organ retrieval and specify which organs. ~~Consent form should be signed by a parent plus two witnesses. If it is cannot that consent has been given.~~
- If relevant, phone the Coroner (332344) to report the death and request his permission for organ retrieval. Phone UKTS and/or Renal Unit, BCH to confirm that organs have been made available for retrieval.
In the case of multiple organ retrieval UKTS should be given about four hours (depending on the time of day) by which time confirmation for organ retrieval should have been received. If no assurance for retrieval has been given by this time then the Renal Unit should be informed and a kidney only retrieval organised.
- Communicate with the Operating Theatre Sister and give details of the scope of surgery and the estimated starting time. Please keep Theatre involved of any change in plans.
- Should retrieval be repeatedly postponed the guiding principle should be that any retrieval be completed before the morning following the diagnosis of brain stem death. This allows a post mortem or funeral arrangements to proceed without any delay attributed to organ retrieval.