



Care of the Cholangiocarcinoma Patient
Clinical Practice Guideline:

INTRACTABLE NAUSEA AND VOMITING IN THE PATIENT WITH CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA

GOALS/OUTCOMES:

Patient will verbalize and/or demonstrate outcomes below:

1. Describe signs and symptoms of dehydration and demonstrate understanding of when to seek medical attention
2. Verbalize and demonstrate understanding of dietary modifications and prevention of constipation
3. Verbalize understanding of the signs and symptoms of infection and when to seek medical attention
4. Verbalize understanding of the purpose of a biliary stent/biliary drain, return demonstrate how to care for an external drain
5. Verbalize understanding of the purpose of a venting gastrostomy tube and return demonstrate how to properly care for the tube
6. Verbalize understanding of the purpose of palliative surgery due to obstruction
7. Demonstrate/explain the use of complementary and alternative therapy
8. Verbalize understanding and list medications taken for pain, diuretics for management of ascites, medications taken for chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) and non-CINV
9. Explain the purpose of a paracentesis
10. The patient is able to make their needs known, seek assistance when needed, demonstrate understanding of disease process/prognosis, and be an active participant in the plan of care/decision making
11. Family/caregivers verbalize signs and symptoms of active dying and verbalize patient comfort goals

ASSESSMENT/INTERVENTIONS

A. Assessment findings with associated reference numbers and evidence based rating:

1. Tumor location, type and stage of Cholangiocarcinoma (Intrahepatic, Peri-hilar, Distal) 2, IV-B; 4,V-B; 17,IV-A
2. Obstruction: Mechanical/non-mechanical, bile duct or other location, pseudo-obstruction 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 4,V-B; 12,V-A; 14,V-B; 15,V-B; 16,V-A; 17,IV-A
3. Co-morbidities such as anxiety/depression, diabetes 2,V-A; 6,V-A; 11,V-A; 14,V-B
4. Pain 4,V-B
5. Constipation 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 14,V-B
6. Dehydration, electrolyte imbalances 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 6,V-A
7. Opioid use, current medications 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 14,V-B; 17,IV-A
8. Gastroparesis 5,V-A; 6,V-A; 9,V-A; 10,V-A; 11,V-A; 14,V-B; 17,IV-A
9. Current treatment with chemotherapy/radiation 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 6,V-A; 7,III-B; 8,V-B; 14,V-B
10. Ascites 2,V-A; 14,V-B; 15,V-B
11. Infections of the oral cavity, biliary tree 5,V-A; 8,V-B; 14,V-B
12. End of life 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 6,V-A; 8,V-B; 12,V-A; 14, V-B

B. Interventions related to assessment findings above with associated reference numbers and evidence based rating:

1. The location of the tumor and stage of the cancer/life expectancy, will dictate the plan of care and treatment decisions 14,V-B Control of nausea and vomiting begins with determining a cause 14,V-B
2. Biliary stenting/biliary drainage to relieve or bypass the obstruction for palliation 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 3,III-B; 4,V-B; 12,V-A
 - a. Palliative surgical interventions, e.g. Choledochojejunostomy, Hepaticojejunostomy 1,V-B; 4,V-B



- b. Nasogastric decompression as a temporary intervention 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 15,V-B
- c. Venting gastrostomy tube placement as a palliative intervention 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 12,V-A; 15,V-B; 16,V-A
3. Complimentary or alternative therapies, e.g. massage, acupuncture, relaxation techniques 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 15,V-B
- a. Avoidance of external stimuli, e.g. sights, smells, sounds that may trigger nausea/vomiting 5,V-A; 6,V-A; 14,V-B; 15,V-B
4. Adequate pain management 4,V-B; 14,V-B
5. Dietary modifications 5,V-A; 6,V-A; 13,III-B; 15,V-B Pharmacological treatments, prevention 1,V-B; 2,V-A; 3,III-B; 5,V-A; 14,V-B
6. Hydration, correction of electrolyte imbalance 2,V-A; 6,V-A
7. Modification of current medications 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 14,V-B
 - a. Additional medications e.g. Antiemetics-, Corticosteroids, 5-HT3 receptor antagonists, phenothiazines, anticholinergics, prokinetic agents, benzodiazepines, antihistamines, antipsychotics (Haldol), cannabinoids 2,V-A; 5,V-A; 6,V-A
8. Pharmacologic: e.g. Prokinetic agents, NK-1 receptor antagonists, dopamine antagonists 6,V-A; 11,V-A; 17,IV-A Non-pharmacologic: NG tube placement, dietary modification 11,V-A; treatment of co-morbidities, greater glycemic control 17,IV-A
9. See interventions #7 and #8, Olanzapine, dopamine antagonists, antihistamines 18,III-A; Interruption of radiation therapy 5,V-A
10. Paracentesis 14,V-B; 15,V-B Diuretics 15,V-B
11. Supportive therapy, antibiotics, oral care
12. See interventions #3, #4, #7, #8; Palliative sedation if appropriate 13,III-B

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