



## March 2009 Newsletter

### News

#### Stroke care in the ED - project update

After numerous requests from the clinicians, NICS has been developing a package of resources aimed at improving ED uptake of the National Stroke Foundation's Clinical Guidelines for Acute Stroke.

The implementation resources, based on a care bundle approach, are currently being finalised and are anticipated to be released in June 2009. Following this, the resources will be piloted in a small, diverse group of EDs in the second half of 2009. If you are interested in finding out more about this initiative, or would like to express your interest in being part of the pilot, please contact Annette at [annette.lenstra@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:annette.lenstra@nhmrc.gov.au) for more information.

#### CoP Teleconferences

Each month, the EC CoP has a teleconference meeting which features a clinical discussion related to emergency care. Meetings relate to the latest emergency research as well as local ED improvement activities. Discussion is open to all callers with questions often related to local practice issues and ways to bring about evidence based practice. Last week we discussed Acute Coronary Syndrome differences between men and women with Lisa Kuhn. Every caller was engaged, with opportunities to discuss their own practice and local ED issues. Next month we will be discussing the difficulties of bringing about change into your local ED, drawing on Dr Dan Turner's experiences in introducing a therapeutic hypothermia in post-cardiac arrest protocol. Sometimes a simple change in practice is not so easy! If you have any topic or speaker ideas for these calls, please email Scott at: [scott.bennetts@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:scott.bennetts@nhmrc.gov.au). These calls are announced in each newsletter in 'Talk to the experts'.

#### Blog - [www.emergencycare.nhmrc.gov.au/blog](http://www.emergencycare.nhmrc.gov.au/blog)

If you have any teaching tools, protocols, or other resources that you are able to share on the blog, please let us know. Email Scott at [scott.bennetts@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:scott.bennetts@nhmrc.gov.au)

#### New BestBETs

BestBETs has recently updated its content. BestBETs brings the evidence one step closer to the bedside, by providing answers to very specific clinical problems, using the best available evidence. BETs are designed specifically for emergency clinicians and helps you quickly access the evidence in a brief clinical "bottom line" format. Go to: [www.bestbets.org](http://www.bestbets.org)

#### Useful website – [Labtestsonline.org](http://www.labtestsonline.org)

This website is helpful for searching laboratory tests as well as recommended testing for dozens of patient groups. Visit <http://www.labtestsonline.org.au/>

### Articles of interest

Effect of whole-body CT during trauma resuscitation on survival: a retrospective, multicentre study. *Lancet* 2009 Mar 24 doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(09)60232-4 [LINK](#)

Intensive versus conventional glucose control in critically ill patients. The NICE-SUGAR Study Investigators. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. March 26, 2009 Vol. 360 No. 13 p.1283-1297 [LINK](#)

Delirium in older emergency department patients: recognition, risk factors, and psychomotor subtypes. *Academic Emergency Medicine*. 2009; Vol. 16. p.193-200 [LINK](#)

Hypothermia therapy after pediatric cardiac arrest. *Circulation*. 2009; Vol. 119. p.1492-1500 [LINK](#)

### Talk to the experts

In our next teleconference we will be meeting with Dr Dan Turner, Medical Director of the Mildura Hospital Emergency Department.

With a clear evidence base for cooling post cardiac arrest patients in the ED and ICU, it seems this relatively simple intervention remains largely forgotten in many EDs. Join us as we discuss the issues of introducing evidence based practice and potential solutions.

#### Teleconference details:

**Guest speaker:** Dr Dan Turner  
**Topic:** Why is therapeutic hypothermia in post-cardiac arrest still a practice gap?  
**Date:** Tuesday April 28  
**Time:** 1.00pm - 2.00pm AEST  
**Phone:** 1800 200 232 and enter PIN: 011363 at the prompt.

#### Recommended reading:

Treatment of comatose survivors of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest with induced hypothermia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 346, No. 8 Feb 21, 2002 [LINK](#)

Mild therapeutic hypothermia to improve the neurologic outcome after cardiac arrest. *New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 346, No. 8 Feb 21, 2002 [LINK](#)

#### Related web-sites:

Australian Resuscitation Council  
[www.resus.org.au](http://www.resus.org.au)

University of Pennsylvania's Therapeutic Hypothermia Resource - <http://www.med.upenn.edu/resuscitation/Hypothermia.htm>

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