

ABCD Approach for Evaluation and Treatment of Contrast Reactions

A

Airway, Oxygen
Assessment (severity and category of reaction); blood pressure and pulse (necessary); electrocardiogram monitor may be necessary for evaluation of cardiac rhythm
Assistance (call for it)
Access (venous)-secure/improve intravenous line(s) – peripheral or central

B

Breathing (begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation [CPR] if necessary); use mouth protective barrier
Bag-valve-mask (e.g., “Ambu” bag) or mouth-mask
Begin full resuscitation efforts (CPR) if necessary; call cardiopulmonary arrest response team
Beware of atypical manifestation (e.g., beta-blockers may prevent tachycardic response)

C

Circulatory assistance: as appropriate, administer isotonic fluid (e.g., Ringer’s lactate, normal saline), infuse rapidly, and may use pressure bag or forceful infusion
Categorize reaction and patient status
Call cardiopulmonary arrest response team if necessary; CPR; continue to monitor
Common denominators: assess cardiac output; capillary leak (third spacing); decreased venous return, decreased peripheral vascular resistance; pulmonary edema

D

Drug therapies as appropriate
Do: monitor, assess, and reassure the patient; use correct dose (concentration) and route for drugs; push intravenous fluids and oxygen
Don’t delay (call for help, if you need it); don’t use incorrect dose(s) and drugs

Source: Contrast Media Administration Guidelines by the ACR (American College of Radiology) Version 6 - 2008 by radiology_resources on Scribd

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