RIBAVIRIN THERAPY: CARE OF PATIENT

POLICY: Registered Nurses or Respiratory Therapist may administer Ribavirin Therapy.

PURPOSE:

An aerosol treatment delivered by a SPAG-2 unit per oxyhood, croup tent, or mask in treatment of RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus).

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

1. Pregnant hospital personnel and visitors are recommended not to be allowed in while therapy is going on.
2. Patient should be in contact isolation throughout therapy.
3. Good hand washing and isolation technique should be observed.
4. Aerosol treatment usually ordered for 12-18 hours per day continually for 3-7 days.
5. SPAG unit is set up by RT.
6. When system is properly operating, no visible mist will be seen in drying chamber. Capillary tubes in chamber will make 3 small wet spots on chamber walls.
7. The machine can be shut off for 1/2 hour without affecting medicine delivery.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

1. Mist tent, O₂ mask or Oxyhood
2. SPAG unit with virazole
3. Gown and mask - (isolation cart)
4. O₂ analyzer

CONTENT:

Procedure Steps                                           Key Points

1. Wash hands.
## CONTENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Steps</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Place child in isolation.</td>
<td>2. Because virus is transmitted directly by oral contact, droplet spread, and indirectly by hands and articles freshly soiled by respiratory discharge of infected person, <strong>contact isolation</strong> is recommended.</td>
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<td>3. Set up mist tent or Oxyhood or mask.</td>
<td>3. Age, size of child or physicians preference will determine which is used. See procedures page 28, 67, or 72 in O₂ procedure book.</td>
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<td>4. Place child in tent or under hood after Ribavirin therapy initiated by RT.</td>
<td>4. Child is to remain in tent or under hood Throughout entire treatment time: 12-18 hours.</td>
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<td>5. Record the time the croup tent and SPAG unit were started and ended.</td>
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<td>6. Observe child's color, pulse, and respiratory status every 2-4 hours and enter in nurses notes.</td>
<td>6. Worsening of respiratory status, apnea, cardiac arrest, bacterial pneumonia, and pneumonia, and pneumothorax are side effects of Ribavirin use.</td>
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<td>7. Check O₂ concentration and temp of croup tent every 4 hours and record.</td>
<td>7. O₂ concentration should be about 30-40% unless physician orders otherwise. Temp in tent should range from 72-76 degrees. RT checks these.</td>
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<td>9. Record all pertinent patient data in nursing notes.</td>
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**DOCUMENTATION:** Respiratory Care Flow Sheet and MAR.

**REFERENCE:** Viazole Medication Insert, Epi-Gram, Vol. 51, Number 4.

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