



مستشفى الملك فيصل التخصصي ومركز الأبحاث
King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre

QUALITY & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING #18

Tuesday, 30th August 2022 (3:30 - 5:30 pm)

Patient Safety Story/ Cauda equine post lumbar puncture procedure



A 21 year-old female patient known to have SLE with history of cardiac arrest was admitted to the hospital for further investigation and management. Patient was transferred to the ICU due to respiratory distress and sepsis. During his ICU stay, the patient required Lumbar Puncture (LP) procedure. LP was performed by a fellow and patient was transferred back to the floor the following day. In the floor, patient had complains of mild bilateral thigh pain, left lower weakness, fecal incontinence and general body weakness. Nine days post the LP procedure, MRI was repeated and revealed Lumbosacral intra-spinal extradural subacute hematoma with cauda equine compression (complication of lumbar puncture procedure done earlier). Patient underwent decompression with lower limb power score of 3/5 post surgery.



LESSONS LEARNED:

- Failure of early recognition of complication post lumbar puncture procedure due to lack of standards.
- Lack of consultant engagement in patient care on multiple levels.
- Absence of appropriate consent form for invasive procedure in critical care.
- Failure to escalate the acute changes in patient condition to the primary team
- Taskforce to establish post-procedural monitoring pathway and establish appropriate consent form for critical invasive procedures.
- Revise “Assessment/Reassessment of Patients & Documentation Standards for Physicians” policy (CIPP-7548) to reflect daily assessment of consultants.
- Enhance communication process of any concerns and/or alarming issues as well as any communication with other healthcare providers.
- Just culture will be applied to the involved staff in the case.