

Sedation and analgesia in critical care- Introduction

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Introduction

- Aims.
- The aim of these series of short slide shows is to give you an introduction to sedative and analgesic drugs used in the critical care unit.
- We also want to suggest how these drugs should be used and what we are trying to achieve and avoid when using them.
- As well as this we want to give you some tools to help you to measure how well the drugs are working and if your patient is suffering from pain, delirium or anxiety.
- Finally we want to suggest non-drug ways of helping patients stay calm and free from pain.

What are we trying to achieve?

- There are a small number of patients who need to be deeply sedated and sometimes even given muscle relaxant drugs.
- Most patients we aim to have awake, calm and free from pain.
- Deep sedation has lots of side effects and so we only use it when really needed.
- Having more patients awake, calm and free from pain depends on the knowledge and skills of all critical care staff.

How are we going to provide you with information about sedation and analgesia?

- We are going to give you access to a series of 5 slide presentations giving you some key information about each topic.
- They may have links to other resources.
- The slides are only an introduction, but you are working with lots of staff who are already experienced and who are very happy to answer any question, even if you are worried that you should already know the answers.
- ***We will have an online quiz- you can gain points for completion and there will be prizes!***

What are the topics we are going to cover?

1- Assessment and management

- Assessment of the level of sedation
- Assessment of pain and agitation
- Assessment and management of delirium
- Sedation holds and goal setting
- Dealing with the agitated patient
- Giving boluses- the good and the bad!
- Non- drug methods

What are the topics we are going to cover. 2- Individual drugs

- For each drug we want to give a bit of background- what type of drug is it?
- How do we use the drug
- What are the risks and benefits.
- The drugs we will cover are- Propofol, Alfentanil, Morphine, Midazolam & Clonidine.
- We will also cover muscle relaxants even though they are NOT sedatives.