

7 Disorders

1. Right Sided Stroke

- a. Pathophysiology
 - i. Ischemic stroke
 - ii. Occurs suddenly within minutes of blood supply interruption to brain tissues
 - iii. Due to blockage of arteries
- b. Signs & symptoms
 - i. Memory loss
 - ii. Facial weakness
 - iii. Paralysis on left side of body
- c. Diagnostic/labs
 - i. CT scan
 - ii. CT angiogram
 - iii. angiogram
 - iv. MRI scan
 - v. MRA
 - vi. Doppler ultrasound
- d. Treatment/medication
 - i. TPA
 - 1. Alteplase (activase)
 - 2. Tenecteplase
 - ii. Blood thinners
- e. Nursing implications
 - i. Monitor & assessment
 - ii. Mobility & safety
 - iii. Cognitive & perceptual deficits
 - iv. Nutritional support
- f. Patient teaching = FAST
 - i. Face = ask patient to smile. Face drop?

- ii. A rm = ask patient to raise their arms. One arm down?
- iii. S peech = ask patient to repeat a phrase. Slurred?
- iv. T ime = time is brain. Call 9-1-1

2. Left Sided Stroke

- a. Pathophysiology (2 types)
 - i. Ischmic
 - 1. Thrombotic
 - 2. Embolic
 - ii. Hemorrhagic
 - 1. Intracerebral
 - 2. Subarachnoid
- b. Signs & symptoms
 - i. Weakness or paralysis
 - ii. Sensory changes (loss of function)
 - 1. Vision problems
 - iii. Speech & language difficulties
 - iv. Swallowing challenges
 - v. Cognitive changes
 - vi. Behavioral changes
- c. Diagnosis/labs
 - i. CT scan
 - ii. MRI scan
 - iii. Angiogram
 - iv. MRA
 - v. Doppler ultrasound
- d. Treatment
 - i. Medication
 - 1. Blood thinners
 - ii. Surgery
 - 1. Embolectomy
 - 2. Vertebrobasilar angioplasty & stenting

- iii. Rehabilitation
 - 1. Physical therapy
 - 2. Occupational therapy
 - 3. Speech therapy
 - 4. Psychological therapy
- e. Nursing implication
 - i. Supporting breathing, circulation, airway
 - ii. Monitoring vital signs
 - iii. Performing neurological assessment
 - iv. Providing a quiet environment
 - v. Prevent constipation
- f. Patient teaching
 - i. Manage/treat underlying condition
 - ii. Limit salt intake in diet
 - iii. Healthy diet
 - iv. Reduce alcohol intake
 - v. Quit smoking
 - vi. Implement exercising
 - vii. Maintain or achieve a healthy weight

3. Dementia / Alzheimer

- a. Pathophysiology
 - i. Two main abnormalities
 - 1. Amyloid plaques - clumps of protein that form between nerve cells
 - 2. Neurofibrillary tangles - accumulation of protein that form inside neurons
- b. Signs & symptoms
 - i. Memory loss
 - ii. Hard time thinking
 - iii. Hard time making decision/judgment
 - iv. Change in personality and behavior