

REYE'S SYNDROME PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Reye's syndrome is a rare condition that causes swelling of the liver and brain and most often occurs in children following a viral illness such as flu or chickenpox in combination with taking aspirin. Reye's syndrome is a serious condition with no known cure that can be life threatening. Treatment involves symptomatic care and support.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Loss of consciousness
- Confusion and disorientation
- Weakness of extremities
- Seizures
- Excessive drowsiness
- Changes in personality
- Headaches
- Vomiting

DIAGNOSTICS

- Blood chemistry
- CT or MRI scan
- Liver function tests or biopsy
- Serum ammonia
- Lumbar puncture

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Assess and monitor cognition
- Maintain safety and prevent injury

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Avoid Aspirin with viral illnesses
- Bleeding precautions
- Seizure precautions
- ICP monitoring
- Monitor neurological status

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Antiepileptics
- Blood transfusions
- Symptom management