

Teaching Self Infusion Using The “KidK Kit” In The Summer Camp setting

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OBJECTIVES

- Home infusion for those with severe bleeding disorders normally begins at a very young age and it is initially performed by the parents or caregiver. Eventually this task must become the child’s responsibility, which helps the child gain confidence, autonomy and Independence.
- This skill is usually mastered sometime between the age of 7-14; however, lack of courage to poke the needle through the skin can interfere with the mastery of home infusion. Individualised training in a quiet, personal setting with simple but helpful tools can help with these fears.
- Summer camp is an ideal setting to teach home infusion to young campers (Aldridge, 2010). The “KidK Kit” (Bayer Inc) is designed to help with the task of teaching home infusion
- **Study Objective:** to demonstrate that use of the “KidK” kit at summer camp is an ideal combination to help young boys learn how to self infuse

METHODS

- Maritime Adventures Camp (MAC) in Nova Scotia, Canada is a camp for children with Bleeding Disorders, aged 6- 15. There are normally between 35-50 campers of which approximately half have a bleeding disorder. Teaching self infusion to those with severe hemophilia is an integral part of the camp program.
- Two trained registered nurses work with affected children from the age of 6 to assess readiness and individualize a teaching program for self infusion. Individuals are taught in the quiet environment of the “Med Hut” away from the activity of camp. Each child receives a KidK Kit (provided by Bayer) that is used throughout their stay at camp.
- “KidK Kit” contains several supplies including a “BayCuff” (Bayer™) and “veins” which allow the child to practice infusion without actually having to poke himself. The Baycuff can be placed in various locations on the arm to simulate infusion using different veins.
- The child is also taught about the routine of infusion, reconstitution and how to hold and maneuver the butterfly, all using the “KidK kit”. Those learning self infusion are rewarded and recognized at the end of camp with an award signifying their accomplishments. The “KidK Kit” is sent home for future practice.

RESULTS

- The “Kid K’ kit has become a very valuable tool for use at Maritimes Adventure Camp.
- It allows the registered nurses to familiarize campers, as young as 6 years old, with the process of self infusion.
- Camp is an opportunity for children to learn that they can exist outside the home without their parents taking care of their every need (Wisco,A, 2008).
- Learning self infusion for a severe hemophiliac is a huge step towards gaining freedom from parental control.
- Since the introduction of the “KidK Kit” approximately five years ago, ten young boys at Maritimes Adventure Camp have learned to self infuse with the assistance of this tool.



CONCLUSIONS

The “KidK Kit” is a nonthreatening, fun tool that allows a young hemophiliac to begin learning about self infusion without actually having to give himself the needle. Camp allows children to try new things and take risks in a low-stress, nurturing environment (Wisco, A, 2008). The combination of a good tool like the “KidK Kit” and the great environment of summer camp make for an ideal learning environment. Maritimes Adventure Camp hopes to be able to report many more success stories in years to come.

REFERENCES

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