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Intraoperative Management of Lumbar Cerebrospinal Fluid Drains: A Reference Tool

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Background: Lumbar cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) drains are invasive interventional devices implemented for patients suffering from neurosurgical and complex aortic conditions. CSF drain management can be an infrequent task for anesthesia providers. Infrequent exposure can lead to inadvertent mismanagement leaving the patient vulnerable to increased morbidity and mortality.

Objectives: The purpose of this study was to develop a reference tool for basic intraoperative management of lumbar CSF drains and determine if CRNA and SRNA knowledge was improved with its use.

Method: This study utilized a pre-test/post-test design with an educational reference tool to survey both CRNAs and SRNAs.

Results: Overall, the difference in the scores before and after the implementation of the reference tool were found to be statistically significant (p value <0.001) for improvement in knowledge for both CRNAs and SRNAs despite specialization, years of experience, and yearly number of lumbar drains managed. However, the implementation of the established reference tool demonstrated greater effectiveness for SRNAs and those who do not specialize in neuroanesthesia.

Conclusion: This study demonstrated a need for education and reference materials to assist providers with improved knowledge regarding basic CSF drain manipulation intraoperatively.

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