ANAESTHESIA INDUCED ANAPHYLAXIS

- **Aim** - To educate nurses on recognition and rapid treatment of anaesthesia induced anaphylaxis.
- **Anaphylaxis** is a serious, life-threatening systemic hypersensitivity reaction of rapid onset (Galvao et al. 2014). An immunological response to an antigen which binds to a specific IgE antibody which are found on mast cells (Rees 2006).

### Signs & Symptoms
- Rash/erythema/angioedema
- Bronchospasm/decreased O2 saturations
- Cardiovascular collapse/hypotension/tachycardia

### How to Manage
- ABC…..
- Stop potential triggers
- Call for help
- Lay patient flat, elevate legs
- IV Epinephrine-weight based doses
- IV fluids

### Other Management
- Antihistamines-Chlorphenamine 10-20mg slow IV
- Corticosteroids-Hydrocortisone: 100-300mg IV
- Bronchodilators for persistent bronchospasm

### Common Trigger Agents
- Prior exposure
- Antibiotics
- NSAIDS
- Neuromuscular blocking agents
- Latex

### Key Investigations
- Referral to immunologist
- Specific blood tests—RAST/CAP
- Skin testing
- Issue of epipen

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References: