**Pediatric QI forum: Baclofen pump - perioperative pathway**

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**Institution:** Texas Children’s Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine

**Intent/category:**

(yes) Published material

(yes) Ongoing project

(yes) Seeking collaboration

**Problem:** Surgical site and deep infections are known to be high in intrathecal baclofen pump surgery. These implants are typically placed in a medically-challenging patient population.

**Question:** Can we reduce the rate of baclofen pump infections with a perioperative bundle?

**Context:** At baseline, our institution (high-volume tertiary free-standing pediatric hospital) had a relatively high rate of infection compared to other hospitals.

**Description of Quality Improvement Activity:** Developed and implemented an infection prevention bundle (based on review of literature and evidence-based best practice), and examined the pre- and post-protocol-implementation outcomes of perioperative infection and postoperative complications

**Resources/Skills needed:** We did not have extra resources beyond committing to developing and following the bundle. You need a way to keep track of your outcomes and metrics of interest.

**Results (if available):** 128 cases (64 pre-bundle implementation, 64 post-bundle implementation) were reviewed. The infection rate was essentially cut in half, from 12.5% to 6.3%, without reaching significance. Complication rate was significantly reduced (23.4% to 9.4%) (p=0.032). Compliance to the bundle was 88%.

**Tips for others:** Keep a copy the perioperative bundle visible and accessible in the OR. Nursing involvement and ongoing in-service education was key. Send a pdf copy to all incoming residents on service.

**Links:**

<http://thejns.org/doi/abs/10.3171/2017.10.PEDS17248>

reference for link:

Desai VR, Raskin JS, Mohan A, Montojo J, Briceño V, Curry DJ, Lam S. A standardized protocol to reduce pediatric baclofen pump infections: a quality improvement initiative. J Neurosurg Pediatr. 2018 Jan 26:1-6 [Epub ahead of print]

**Attachments:**

Perioperative bundle worksheet

