



How to encounter the child in coma

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article type Review article Article history Received: 20 Dec 2013 Revised: 24 Dec 2013 Accepted: 7 Jan 2014 Keywords Coma Glasgow Coma Scale Pediatric	Non-traumatic coma is a medical emergency and should be evaluated as soon as possible. Pediatric coma is more serious because of patient's capacity of pathological stressor tolerance is limited especially in neonates. Several etiologies could be listed for loss of consciousness (LOC) and coma in childhood. According to the epidemiological studies, causes of coma are different all around the world. Glasgow Coma Scale has been used for coma scaling. In this review, we focused on some highlight causes of coma in pediatric medicine.

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Introduction

Comatose child almost always refers to the pediatric emergency unit (1). Many reports showed that encounter with these situations need good level of critical care knowledge and good level of professional clinical practice (2,3).

Level of consciousness in children is a very important question with difficult answer (4). Coma refers to a state of complete unawareness and unresponsiveness (5). One of the most important scales for the

assessment of neurologic conditions is the Glasgow Coma Scale (Table 1) (6). Some etiologies and diagnosis of acute childhood comatose are listed in Table 2 and 3 (5).

Differential diagnosis for children presenting with coma or altered level of consciousness is very important for any pediatrician (7-9).

Pathophysiology of coma

Brainstem and pons have important role in

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