Volumetric Dosing: Is it the Ultimate Solution??

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EMSC Strategic Planning Meeting
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Objectives

 To recognize commonly available Length-Based Tape (LBT) and other weight estimation systems available for prehospital use

 To understand the pitfalls of length-based tape systems and their applicability to prehospital care

 To understand ways to apply the use of length-based tape systems to recently released pediatric prehospital evidence based guidelines



Case: Seizure

- You are on scene with a 5-year-old with a seizure. Mom reports he has diabetes and just got his insulin before lunch. D-stick on scene reveals a glucose of 30
 - You want to give dextrose, midazolam to stop the seizure
 - Mom says he weighs about 30 lbs

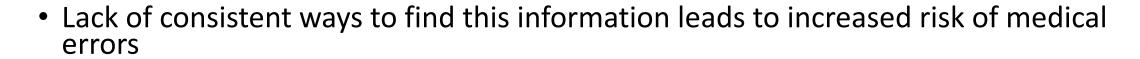






Background

- Pediatric care is weight, size, and age based
 - Medication Dosages
 - Equipment size
 - VS norms
- Lots of formulas to figure these out:
 - ET tube size: (age/4)÷4
 - ET tube distance 3 × Internal Diameter of tube
 - Dextrose Rule of 50's
 - Hypotension=SBP <70+(2×age in years)







Medication errors

1999 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report:

- 3-4% of hospital patients are harmed by the health care system
- 7% of hospital patients are exposed to a serious medication error
- 50,000 100,000 deaths/ yr from medical mistakes
 - Equivalent of 280 747s crashing in a year with no survivors





Medication Errors

Prehospital Simulation Scenarios

- ALS providers completed pediatric patient simulation scenarios
 - Epinephrine dose incorrect: 68-73%
 - Failure to use Broselow tape: 50%
 - Incorrect use of Broselow tape: 47%

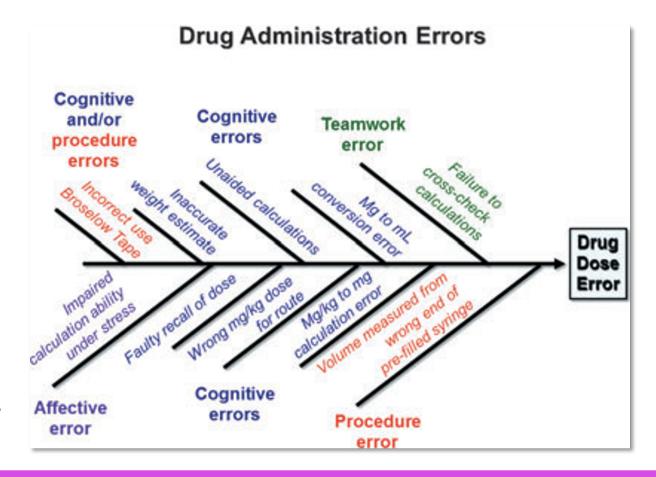






Fishbone model of errors

- Cognitive Errors
 - Unaided calculations
 - Incorrect weight estimate
- Procedural Errors
 - Incorrect use of LBT
 - Push wrong volume
- Teamwork Errors
 - Failure to cross check
- Affective Errors
 - Impaired calculation under stress





Barriers to accurate doses

- Drug packaging is not pediatric friendly All drugs "packaged for adults"
 - All peds doses require calculations

Math calculations are difficult

Training doesn't include calculating, diluting and administering drugs



Options for Volumetric Dosing

Broselow Pediatric Emergency Tape

HandtevyTM System

Certa-DoseTM



Broselow pediatric emergency tape™



- Developed by James Broselow and Robert Luten in early 1980's
- Relates height to estimated weight
- Designed for up to age 12 years, maximum weight of 36 kilograms



Broselow pediatric emergency Tape (Version 2011 Edition A)

- Has 9 color-coded zones corresponding to a range of weights
- Provides:
 - Medication doses
 - Equipment size and type
 - Voltage for cardioversion and defibrillation
 - Assessment tools: Pediatric Trauma Score
- Revisions over the years:
 - Change in Dextrose
 - Removal of GCS





How good is it???

- Heyming, et.al. (2012, Prehospital Emerg Care)
- Study of 572 patients transported by EMS
- Median age 24 months
- EMS providers required to obtain Broselow weight (color)
- Compared to ED Broselow and ED scale weight
- Correlation between EMS and ED Broselow: 0.92
- Correlation between ED Broselow and ED scale: 0.97



What about those obese kids?

- Broselow Tape based on the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey dataset
- Actual body weight approximates 65% of the time
 - 20% are heavier than the Broselow estimate
 - 15% are lighter than the Broselow estimate
- Theoretically, dose can be adjusted up by one zone if patient appears obese





What about those obese kids?

- EMS Professionals report mistrust of LBT measurements
 - Some view themselves as good at estimating
 - Some compare child to a child with a known weight (own child, relative)
 - Some ask parent

Does it matter???? Probably not....

 Medication dosing is based on lean body mass and few medications are so fat soluble that dosing needs to be adjusted





Success story....

- Kaji, et.al., Pediatrics, October 2006
- LA County Paramedics
- 1994-1997 epinephrine dose error: 65.8% of the time
 - Fewer errors when Broselow tape used.
- Extensive quality improvement program to decrease error
- 2003-2004 epinephrine dose error: reduced to 35%



Broselow LBT information

Mainly for care of pediatric patients in critical situations

Medications:

- Seizure
- Fluids
- Overdose
- Increased ICP
- Resuscitation
- Rapid Sequence Intubation
 - Induction
 - Paralytics

Equipment:

- Airway: BVM, ETT, LMA
- Stylets, suction catheters
- OP/NP airways
- OG/NG tubes
- Urinary catheters
- Chest tubes
- Vascular access
- BP cuffs



Barriers with Broselow

- Buried in equipment or drug bag (out of sight out of mind-forget it's there)
- Frequently giving meds that are not weight based (e.g. nebulizers)
- Tape can be confusing (includes drugs they don't use-occasionally used upside down)



Pediatric prehospital care

Majority of pediatric prehospital care is NOT critical care

- 1% of patients require a critical care procedure
- 14% of patients obtain IV access
- 20% of patients are respiratory and received standardized dosing
- What can agencies expect that they should be doing for kids..???



Broselow and Prehospital Evidence-Based Guidelines (2011 A Version)

- Among 7 evidence-based guidelines (seizure, pain, medical shock, traumatic shock, airway management, respiratory distress, anaphylaxis):
- 42 separate recommendations
 - 10 that apply to more than one guideline
- 28/42 (57%) recommendations can be followed correctly using the Broselow tape
 - 75% of the recommendations on equipment size could be followed and were correct
 - 4/26 (15%) of the medication recommendations could be followed and were correct
 - Information was missing or incorrect for the remaining medication recommendations



Broselow and Cognitive Errors

Cognitive Errors	Epiner	ohrine	Dextrose		
Cognitive Errors	Handtevy % (n=80)	Broselow % (n=80)	Handtevy % (n=80)	Broselow % (n=80)	
Total	9.8	7.4	15.4	73.1	
Type of Error					
Unaided calculation	0	0	7.1	41.0	
Faulty recall of dose	0	0	0	29.5	
Mg to ml conversion error	3.7	1.2	2.3	21.9	
Chose wrong concentration	6.1	1.2	2.3	32.0	



Commercially Available Systems

BroselowTM Pediatric Emergency Tape

Handtevy™

Certa-DoseTM



BroselowTM Pediatric Emergency Tape

Several different versions



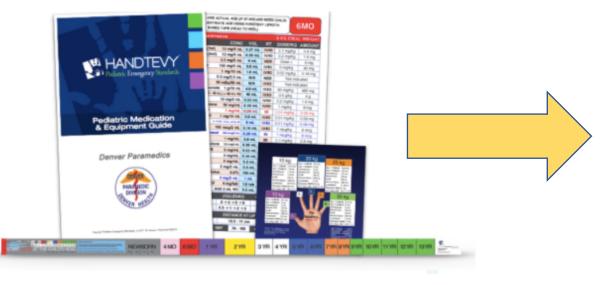
- Newest 2019 has:
 - Pre-calculated doses in milligrams and mL (based on concentrations listed on tape)
 - Habitus adjustment system:
 - Accurate estimate of Ideal Body Weight (ideal for actual dose of medications)
 - Updated with additional essential medications for both EMS and the ER.
 - Contains a separate section: Quick Access Meds→ for those medications needed immediately



Handtevy

• Handtevy by Pediatric Emergency Standards, Inc.









Handtevy system[™]

Booklets are organized by age and color

Color parallels Broselow color zones (patent expired)

Allows for providers to plan en route if age of patient is known

Customized to formulary carried by individual agency



Handtevy™

- Advantages:
 - Allows for planning
 - Customized to agency formulary
 - Reduces cognitive error
- Disadvantages:
 - Cost
 - Need to keep booklets up to date???

Option 1 -USE ACTUAL AGE (IF STANDARD SIZED CHILD)
Option 2 -ESTIMATE AGE USING HANDTEVY LENGTH
BASED TAPE (HEAD TO HEEL)

NB

PINELLAS COUNTY EMS			4 KG	IDEA	L WEIGHT
DRUG CONC	VOL	. RT	DOS	E/KG	AMOUNT
Adenosine [1st] 6 mg/2 mL	0.13 n	nL IV	0.1 m	ıg/kg	0.4 mg
Adenosine [2nd] 6 mg/2 mL	0.27 n	nL IV	0.2 m	ng/kg	0.8 mg
Albuterol 2.5 mg/3 mL	1.5 m	IL NEE	B Dos	e =	1.25 mg
Amiodarone 150 mg/3 mL	0.4 m	L IV	5 mg	g/kg	20 mg
Atropine 1 mg/10 mL	1 ml	L IV	Dos	e =	0.1 mg
Bicarb 4.2% (Dilute 8.4% 1:1 NS)	8 ml	L IV	1 mE	q/kg	4 mEq
Calcium Chloride 1 g/10 mL	0.8 m	IL IV	20 m	g/kg	80 mg
Dextrose 10% in Water 25 g/250 mL	20 m	L IV	0.5	g/kg	2 g
Diazepam IV 10 mg/2 mL	0.08 n	nL IV	0.1 m	ıg/kg	0.4 mg
Diazepam PR 10 mg/2 mL	0.4 m	L PR	0.5 m	ng/kg	2 mg
Diphenhydramine 50 mg/mL	0.08 n	nL IV/II	/ 1 mg	g/kg	4 mg
Dopamine 400 mg/250 mL	1 gtt/n	nin IV	Titrate	to BP: I	Max 4 gtt/min
Epinephrine 1:1,000 IM 1 mg/mL	0.04 n	nL IM	0.01 r	ng/kg	0.04 mg
Epinephrine 1:10,000 IV 1 mg/10 mL	0.4 m	IL IV	0.01 r	ng/kg	0.04 mg
Fentanyi Intranasal 250 mcg/5 mL	0.18 n	nL IN		g/kg	4 mcg
Fentanyl IV 250 mcg/5 mL	0.04 n	nL IV	0.5 m	cg/kg	2 mcg
Glucagon 1 mg/mL	0.5 m	L IV/II	n Dos	e =	0.5 mg
Glucose (oral) 15 g/pouch		PO		Not Indicated	
Ipratropium Bromide 0.5 mg/2.5 mL	1.25 n	nL NE	3 Dos	e =	0.25 mg
Magnesium Sulfate 1 g/2 mL	0.4 m	IL IV	50 m	g/kg	200 mg
Methylprednisolone 125 mg/2 mL	0.13 n	nL IV	2 m	g/kg	8 mg
Midazolam Intranasal 10 mg/2 mL	0.26 n	nL IN	0.2 m	ıg/kg	0.8 mg
Midazolam IV/IM 10 mg/2 mL	0.08 n	_	0.1 m	ıg/kg	0.4 mg
Morphine 10 mg/mL	0.04 n	nL IV	0.1 m	ıg/kg	0.4 mg
Morphine 4 mg/mL	0.1 m	IL IV	0.1 m	ng/kg	0.4 mg
Naloxone 2 mg/2 mL	0.4 m	L IV/II	/I 0.1 m	ıg/kg	0.4 mg
Naloxone Intranasal 2 mg/2 mL	1 ml	L IN	Dos	e =	1 mg
Normal Saline Bolus 0.9%	40 m	L IV	10 m	L/kg	40 mL
Ondansetron IV 4 mg/2 mL	1 ml	L IV	Dos	e =	2 mg
Ondansetron ODT 4 mg/tab	N/A	PO		Not Indicated	
PHILIPS MRx JOULES	KG	1ST	2ND	3RE	9 4TH
Defibrillation 2 → 4 → 6	→ 10	8	15	20	50
Cardioversion 0.5 → 1 → 2	2 → 2	2	4	8	8
					_
ET TUBE		D	ISTANCE	E AT L	P
ET TUBE 2.5 Uncuffed / 3.0 Cuffed	3 K				KG: 10-10.5 cm



Color-coded syringes: Certa-DoseTM

- Prefilled syringes with volume of medication according to Broselow color zones
- Advantages:
 - No math, no error in drawing up incorrect volume
- Disadvantage:
 - Expiration of medications in pre-filled syringes
 - Does not work as well for smaller patients (doses)
 - Every syringe must be medication specific





Home Grown Systems...

Colorado EMS for Children Dosing Guide MI-MEDIC (State of Michigan)



Colorado EMSC Pediatric Dosing Guide



		DOSING				PACKAGING				
RESUSCITATION	DOSE	UNIT	PER	MAX DOSE	UNIT	AMOUNT	UNIT	VOLUME	UNIT	CONCENTRATION PER mL
Adenosine - 1st Dose	0.2	mg	kg	6	mg	12	mg	4	mL	3
Adenosine - 2nd Dose	0.2	mg	kg	12	mg	12	mg	4	mL	3
Amiodarone - Resuscitation	5	mg	kg	300	mg	150	mg	3	mL	50
Atropine - Min Dose 0.1mg	0.02	mg	kg	0.5	mg	1	mg	10	mL	0.1
Calcium Chloride	20	mg	kg	1000	mg	1000	mg	10	mL	100
Calcium Gluconate	60	mg	kg	1000	mg	5000	mg	50	mL	100
Epinephrine - 1:10,000	0.01	mg	kg	1	mg	1	mg	10	mL	0.1
Epinephrine - 1:1,000	0.01	mg	kg	1	mg	1	mg	1	mL	1
Dextrose - 25%	0.5	GM	kg	25	GM	12.5	GM	50	mL	0.25
Dextrose - 12.5%	0.5	GM	kg	25	GM	6.25	GM	50	mL	0.125
Dextrose - 10%	0.5	GM	kg	25	GM	5	GM	50	mL	0.1
Magnesium Sulfate	50	mg	kg	2000	mg	1000	mg	2	mL	500
Naloxone (Narcan)	0.1	mg	kg	2	mg	4	mg	10	mL	0.4
Sodium Bicarbonate	1	mEq	kg	100	mEq	50	mEq	50	mL	1
/asopressin	0.5	Units	Kg	40	Units	20	Units	1	mL	20
FUTURE EXPANSION			Kg						mL	#VALUE!

- Volume based calculations based on LBT Color
- Customizable protocols and formulary

- Easily modified
- Available in multiple formats (chart, cards. etc.)



Colorado EMSC pediatric dosing guide

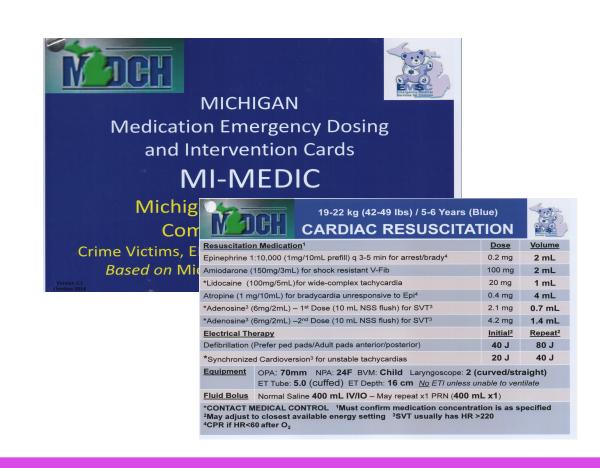
- After completing formulary...
- Volume-based dose automatically calculates

RESUSCITATION	DOSE	TERM	4 MONTHS	8 MONTHS	1 YR	2 YR	4 YRS	
1st Defibrillation / Cardioversion	2 J / kg	7 J	12 J	16 J	20 J	26 J	32 J	
2nd Defibrillation	4 J / kg	14 J	24 J	32 J	40 J	52 J	64 J	
Fluid Bolus - 20ml/kg	20 mL / kg	70 mL	120 mL	160 mL	200 mL	260 mL	320 mL	
Adenosine - 1st Dose	0.2 mg / kg	0.2 mL	0.4 mL	0.5 mL	0.7 mL	0.9 mL	1.1 mL	
Adenosine - 2nd Dose	0.2 mg / kg	0.2 mL	0.4 mL	0.5 mL	0.7 mL	0.9 mL	1.1 mL	
Amiodarone - Resuscitation	5 mg / kg	0.4 mL	0.6 mL	0.8 mL	1.0 mL	1.3 mL	1.6 mL	
Atropine - Min Dose 0.1mg	0.02 mg / kg	0.1 mL	1.2 mL	1.6 mL	2.0 mL	2.6 mL	3.2 mL	
Calcium Gluconate	60 mg / kg	2.1 mL	3.6 mL	4.8 mL	6.0 mL	7.8 mL	9.6 mL	
Epinephrine - 1:10,000	0.01 mg / kg	0.4 mL	0.6 mL	0.8 mL	1.0 mL	1.3 mL	1.6 mL	
Dextrose - 25%	0.5 GM / kg				20.0 mL	26.0 mL	32.0 mL	
Dextrose - 12.5%	0.5 GM / kg	14.0 mL	24.0 mL	32.0 mL	40.0 mL	52.0 mL	64.0 mL	
Dextrose - 10%	0.5 GM / kg	17.5 mL	30.0 mL	40.0 mL	50.0 mL	65.0 mL	80.0 mL	1
Naloxone (Narcan)	0.1 mg / kg	0.9 mL	1.5 mL	2.0 mL	2.5 mL	3.3 mL	4.0 mL	
Sodium Bicarbonate	1 mEq / kg	3.5 mL	6.0 mL	8.0 mL	10.0 mL	13.0 mL	16.0 mL	



State of Michigan field guide

- Developed in response to research by Lammers, Hoyle
- Distributed statewide along with training booklet
- Provides info based on assumed concentrations of medication
- Released April 2015-
 - Every licensed ALS vehicle, hospital, EMS education program





You have your tool...now what???





Procedural and Affective Errors

Procedural and Affective		Epinep	hrine	Dextrose		
		Handtevy	Broselow	Handtevy	Broselow	
		% (n=80)	% (n=80)	% (n=80)	% (n=80)	
Procedural (Total)		25.9	28.3	17.8	38.2	
Type of Error						
Incorrect use of tape		8.6	16.0	4.7	6.4	
Incorrect volume	No difference in procedural	18.5	14.8	10.7	17.9	
Dilution error	errors between systems!!!	0	1.2	8.3	15.3	
Affective (Total)		0	0	2.3	11.5	





Dosing Errors Made by Paramedics During Pediatric Patient Simulations After Implementation of a State-Wide Pediatric Drug Dosing Reference

John D. Hoyle, Jr., MD, Glenn Ekblad, DO, MSN, MPH, Tracy Hover, BS, Alyssa Woodwyk, MS, Richard Brandt, MS, Bill Fales, MD, Richard L. Lammers, MD

PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE 2019;



Objective

 To evaluate the rate of medication errors, including errors of omission and commission, after implementation of a statewide Pediatric Drug Resource





Methods and Outcomes

- **Setting:** Simulation study among 15 agencies
- Design:
 - Infant with seizures (midazolam, dextrose)
 - Infant cardiac arrest (epinephrine)
 - 18-month-old with burn (fentanyl)
 - 5-year-old with anaphylaxis (epinephrine)
- Methods:
 - Used regular equipment
 - Used MI-MEDIC dosing card

- Primary outcome: Medication Errors (defined at +/- 20% of the expected dose)
 - Overdoses
 - Underdoses

Secondary outcomes:

- Magnitude of medication errors
- Errors before and after MI-MEDIC dosing card (PDR)



Results

TABLE 2. Total number of doses and number correct

Drug/route	# Correct/total	% Correct (95% CI)
Midazolam IM	21/32	65.6% (46.8%, 81.4%)
Midazolam IV	7/18	38.9% (17.3%, 64.3%)
Dextrose	20/28	71.4% (51.3%, 86.9%)
Epinephrine (1 mg/1 mL) IM	22/30	73.3% (54.1%, 87.7%)
Diphenhydramine	24/30	82.8% (64.2%, 94.2%)
Methylprednisolone	10/13	76.9% (46.2%, 95.0%)
Fentanyl IN	2/4	50.0% (6.8%, 93.2%)
Fentanyl IV	37 /57	64.9% (51.1%, 77.1%)
Morphine IV	4/6	66.7% (22.3%, 95.7%)
Epinephrine (1 mg/10 mL or 1:10,000) IV	51 /70	72 9% (60 9%, 82 8%)
All drugs	198/288	68.8% (63.5%,74.2%)



Results: Overdoses and Underdoses

Medication	Over (ma	Over (magnitude)		agnitude)
Midazolam IM	2	2.25	9	0.5
Midazolam IV	8	3.75	3	0.75
Dextrose	3	7.7	5	0.73
Epinephrine IM	4	6.7	4	0.67
Epinephrine IV	13	3.6	6	0.07
Fentanyl IN	1	1.25	1	0.25
Fentanyl IV	16	5.0	4	0.6
Methylprednisolone	NONE	N/A	1	0.43



Results: Overall Improvement (Correct Doses)

Medication	Before PDR	After PDR
Midazolam	24%	65.6%
Dextrose	6%	71.4%
Epinephrine IM	25%	73.3%
Epinephrine IV	31%	72.9%



Take Home Points:

- Training needs to include:
 - Practicing drawing up medications
 - Practicing mixing of medications
 - Dextrose
 - Cross checking with other providers
 - Practicing administration





Summary

 Weight estimation and medication dosing is challenging in the prehospital setting

 Broselow and other systems can help but need to be used in the context of other tools

Training on any tool you use is critical!





Questions?

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