

Seeing is Believing! Putting the “SPARK” in You: An Educational Pathway to Implementing a New Surgical Procedure in Perioperative Services

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Background Information: In early 2018, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) was designated as a Vision Center for treating congenital retinal gene defect (biallelic RPE65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy) via the injection of Luxturna (gene therapy). CHLA was the first hospital to perform this innovative gene therapy surgery. With innovation comes inherent lack of knowledge, such as aims of the procedure, medication, nursing care, and patient education. An extraordinary amount of preparation and teamwork was required to ensure that the highest level of patient care was delivered to all patients receiving this cutting edge surgical intervention.

Objectives of Project:

Post-operative Phase

- Interdisciplinary team coordination
- Standardize patient and family education
- Ensure appropriate post-operative care is delivered

Process of Implementation: A collaborative educational pathway was developed to identify and fill knowledge gaps and establish best practice. It centered on providing safe and efficient care, utilization of key stakeholders, and operationalizing the procedure to perfect the timing of defrosting Luxturna. Collaborative meetings and practice “walk-throughs” were held to optimize patient care and identify barriers. Post-operative education highly emphasized the importance of maintaining a supine position to ensure the air-gas exchange bubble would not disrupt placement of the Luxturna bleb.

Statement of Successful Practice: A thorough planning phase led to the creation of strict protocols related to timing and throughput. Post-operative nursing education enabled staff to deliver appropriate and consistent care to all patients. As a result of the collaborative efforts, all of the patients who have received this surgical intervention have reported positive outcomes and rated their nursing care as “very satisfactory.”

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Education and planning for the recovery after this surgical intervention will become increasingly necessary as more hospitals begin to perform this procedure. Utilization of the interdisciplinary team collaboration approach is key in the roll out of any new surgical procedure.