If yes, enroll

Do not force (aspirate) CSF out of the patient!!

Is this a suspect meningitis case?

- Any child aged 0-59 months (<5 years)
- Sudden onset of fever (>38.5˚C rectal or >38.0˚C axillary)
- And one of the following: neck stiffness, altered consciousness
  with no alternative diagnosis, or other meningeal sign

1. Assign case pre-prepared unique patient identity number
2. Complete 5 Specimen Labels: If using T-1 media, complete 6th label
3. Label 3 CSF tubes: put Specimen label on each tube
4. Complete part 1 of Case Report/Investigation
5. Complete paperwork

Check supplies in Lumbar Puncture (LP) kit

- Use a 22G or 23G spinal needle
- If >1 hour is needed for CSF to reach lab, then use T-1 medium. T-1 should be stored at 4˚C. Remove from refrigerator, make sure breath is clear and that T-1 reaches room temperature (25˚C) before CSF is added

Prepare the bed and child

- Put sterile sheet or the sterile side of the gloves pocket on the bed under the patient’s lower lumbar spine
- Child should be motorless, laying on the side, with back arched forward so the head almost touches the knees. The parent or guardian may need to assist
- Clean the lumbar spinal area along a line drawn between the iliac crests with 70% alcohol to remove debris and oils
- Disinfect the skin with iodine or betadine using circular motion from centre outwards. Allow the prepped skin to dry

Obtain about 3 ml of CSF

- Let about 1 ml of CSF flow into each of the 3 tubes, first into tube labelled ‘1’, then tube ‘2’ then tube ‘3’
- Do not force (aspirate) CSF out of the patient!!

Process CSF within 1 hour or use T-1 media

If CSF cannot be transported and processed by the lab within 1 hour, use T-1 media

- If using T-1 media, transfer 0.3-1.0 ml of CSF from tube #2 into the T-1 medium which must be at room temperature:
  - Do not use iodine. Allow to dry
  - Open a new, sterile needle and syringe
  - Using sterile technique, transfer 1 ml of CSF from the sterile CSF tube #2 into vial of T-1 medium
- If transport to lab will be longer than 1 day, incubate inoculated T-1 medium at 35-37°C with ~5% CO2 overnight or until transport is possible. Remove venting needle and wipe rubber stopper with 70% alcohol before shipping

Take CSF to the lab immediately!

- CSF tube #1:
  - Chemistry: protein, glucose
  - CSF tube #2:
  - Microbiology:Gram stain, culture, PCR, Rapid Diagnostic Tests
  - CSF tube #3:
  - Haematology: WBC, RBC, Platelet count

Put Case Report/Investigation Form in Surveillance Logbook

The Hospital Surveillance Coordinator will complete the Logbook, track the patient, and report data to the Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health

The information provided about this suspect meningitis case will be used by the Ministry of Health to improve the national vaccination programme and prevent meningitis

Contacts

Hospital surveillance coordinator:
Hospital laboratory coordinator:
Hospital data manager:
National surveillance focal person:

Additional information: http://www.who.int/nuvi/surveillance/resources/en/index.html