Development of a Multidisciplinary Algorithm for Management of Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage

The Problem

Gastrointestinal hemorrhage is common issue associated with significant mortality. Management of these patients is complex and multiple teams are commonly involved. The lack of comprehensive, evidence based guidelines for management of acute gastrointestinal bleeding both locally and in peer reviewed medical literature has led to variations in care provided to this population.

Aim

The aim of this project was to develop a multidisciplinary algorithm for initial management of patients admitted with gastrointestinal hemorrhage. This algorithm would be distributed throughout the hospital, focusing on the Emergency Department, General Medicine, Intensive Care, Surgery and Gastroenterology. This would allow standard procedures and tests for all patients improving efficiency, communication and reliability of care.

The Team

Leon Sanchez, MD, Daniel Leffler, MD, Daniel Mcgillicuddy, MD, Donald Moorman, MD, Jeffery Siracuse, MD, Lynne Uhl, MD, Michael Howell, MD, Peter Clardy, MD, Meghan Dierks, MD, Lawrence Mottley, MD, Richard Wolfe, MD, Samantha Foy, MD, Gail Piatkowski, Elizabeth Wood, Dmitry Rabkin, MD, Maureen Chase, MD Naama Neeman, MSc, Mark Aronson, MD

The Interventions

The following departments/divisions all participated in the development of the BIDMC Gastrointestinal Bleeding Guideline: Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care, Surgery, Gastroenterology, General Medicine, Blood Bank, Interventional Radiology. Available medical literature was reviewed to generate an evidence base for the algorithm.

The Results/Progress to Date

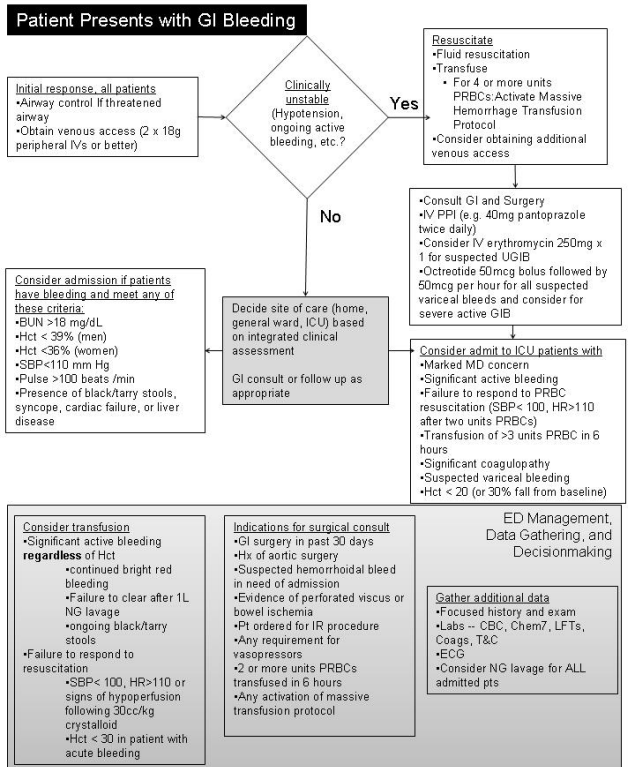
Over a series of meetings, consensus was reached among the participating departments/divisions (See Figure) and faculty and housestaff were introduced to the algorithm which will soon be available online.

Lessons Learned

Individuals from multiple medical areas are necessary to design clinical pathways for treatment of complex conditions.

Next Steps

We are currently working with decision support to collect and review cases of gastrointestinal bleeding. Mortality, length of stay and various process measures will be assessed before and after distribution of the gastrointestinal bleeding algorithm.



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For More Information Contact
Naama Neeman, MSc,
Medicine QI Project Manager
(nneeman@bidmc.harvard.edu)