

The unconscious or semiconscious child

- **CAUSES**
 - Most of the time, its metabolic
 - Very rarely, it's a structural lesion
- The metabolic causes may produce false localizing signs; there may be asymmetrical findings.
- The metabolic causes are
 - Hypoxic injury
 - Epilepsy
 - Meningitis/encephalitis
 - Renal or hepatic failure
 - Reyes syndrome
 - Hypoglycaemia
 - Hypercapnoea

Which coma is that?

- Is there hypertension?
- Is the fontanelle full?
- Is there neck stiffness
- Is there an acidotic pattern of respiration?
- What size are the pupils, and are they reactive?

There are only 3 absolute signs of raised ICP:

- Papilledema
- Bulging fontanelle
- Absence of pulsation in retinal vessels

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○ The first test you do is the BSL.

- Everyone gets oxygen
- Everyone is maintained in normoglycaemia
- Keep sodium in the normal range, ? give half-normal saline
- Maintain normothermia
- Pad the eyes so they don't dry out