

A GUIDE TO THE ALFRED ICU 'LABS AND LYNES' SESSIONS

by Chris Nickson, updated 2 August 2017

Objectives of the Labs and Lynes sessions

- Develop presentation skills
- achieve active learning through case-based discussion
- focus on 'real world' clinical decision making and data interpretation
- create a learning resource that is useful to others at a later date

Rostering

- Two Junior Registrars (JRs) present Labs and Lynes each week
- This alternates between Cardiac and General pods one week, and the Trauma and Surgical pods the next
- Rostered pod JRs are shown on the Alfred ICU JMS Education Programme:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Lo_DyEEbHswXkJnVPKQxiWFCLyq5R9k5sflMVKadqDE/

How to prepare a Labs and Lynes session

- actively seek useful learning points from cases in the unit
- remind the rest of your team (including SR and consultant) to be on the look out for useful cases
- prepare a presentation (see below)
- prepare a written summary (see below)
- present it all at the Wednesday teaching session!
- team points will be awarded for Labs and Lynes sessions and blogpost publication

Presentation

- lead an active discussion that involves and engages the audience
- can use powerpoint, whiteboard or other modality to support the presentation
- direct questions at the audience and make them come up with the answers - there may be more than one right answer! (systematically direct questions at individuals - people won't volunteer!)
- duration: <10 mins (typically we have 2 presentations in 20 minutes)

Written summary

- goal is to create a lasting, stand alone resource that others can learn from asynchronously (i.e. at a later date)
- can submit as a word document (via email to Dr Lewis McLean)

- provide in question and answer format following a case introduction
- ideally aim for 3-5 questions per case (some may be a single question 'spot diagnosis', others may be more involved or evolve)
- provide answers in a short form/ long form format: 'answer and interpretation', i.e. short form gives the specific answer, long form discusses why, gives an approach to the problem or details other considerations
- aim to be specific (highlighting what is relevant to clinical decision making in this particular case) rather than comprehensive
- provide references/ links as appropriate
- if suitable, written summaries will be posted on INTENSIVE (the Alfred ICU educational website); i.e. they will be published with YOU credited as the author
- If the cases cannot be adequately de-identified/ fictionalised then they will not be posted on the website, but may be stored for educational purposes in a shared directory or on a password protected platform (e.g. Moodle)
- A suggested proforma is available at the end of this document

Database

- 'Labs and lytes' that are suitable for publication on INTENSIVE are entered into a free-to-access searchable database found here: <http://intensiveblog.com/labs-lytes/>

Examples

- [What does this monitor screen tell you about TBI?](#)
- [Not all fever is infection](#)
- [What's up with this pacing swan?](#)
- [How new is new?](#)
- [Where are the stripes?](#)
- [What does this monitor screen tell you about TBI?](#)

Having trouble?

if in doubt, ask for help!

- use your team to help you find the most suitable cases
- discuss your cases with your team, including your consultant but especially your Senior Registrar - the discussion might even benefit the patient!
- liaise with Sarah Yong as needed for help with creating the presentation and the written summary

Labs and Lytes Pro Forma

Date: <enter date here>

Author: <enter your name here>

Case 1

<enter case introduction here>

Questions

Q1. <enter question here +/- additional data/ images to interpret>

Answer

<enter short answer here>

<enter longer expansion here>

<enter additional case information here if needed/ or if case evolves>

Q2. <enter question here +/- additional data/ images to interpret>

Answer

<enter short answer here>

<enter longer expansion here>

...

<Add further questions and answers in the above format, usually 3-5 per case is sufficient>

<Add additional cases in the above format as required>

Contact Lewis McLean if you need help and to submit the completed pro forma to when it is complete