

# MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

## First contact with a patient with MND?

# M

Make sure you find out how they communicate

# N

Never lie them flat even if breathless

# D

Don't allow them high flow oxygen (unless in care plan)



### You should also:



Consult their plans (general care, advance care plan and/or advance decision to refuse treatment)

See if there has been a change to their respiratory rate (normally increased) and SpO<sub>2</sub> (normally lower). People with MND could have a high NEWS score but this could be normal for them.

Avoid A&E wherever possible (contact their district nursing team and local care team or speak to their local palliative care coordinator or their GP)

## Airway

Swallowing issues  
Poor cough reflex  
Saliva blocking airway

Consider suction

## Breathing

High respiratory rate  
SpO<sub>2</sub> 88- 92%  
Do they have a BiPAP machine?  
Aetiology of lungs is normal

Place patient on BiPAP  
Guidelines for oxygen use in healthcare and emergency settings  
2 litres O<sub>2</sub> with caution to achieve target saturation

## Circulation

May be rapid due to the increased breathing rate but could be within normal breathing range

Tachycardia can be a normal presentation

## Disability

80% of MND patients have communication issues  
Cognitive function is usually normal

Take your time with these patients

## Environmental

Dehydration can be a problem  
They may have a PEG feed – which can get blocked  
They may have a catheter in situ

Do they have a carer's emergency card or plan? These provide important information regarding the patient's care needs.