

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 SpO₂ (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
SPO2 88- 92%
Have they got a Bi-pap machine
Aetiology of lungs is normal

Place patient on Bi-pap
Guidelines for oxygen use in healthcare and emergency settings
2 litres O2 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

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