

Illness Script Instructions

- Illness Script Components:
 - What is the epidemiology? (who gets this condition and when)
 - What is the pathophysiology?
 - What is the clinical presentation (includes signs, symptoms, labs as appropriate)
- Here is an example of an illness script for Croup:

CROUP:

 - i. Epidemiology: Infants and toddlers (6 months to 3 years). Usually late fall and early winter
 - ii. Pathophysiology: Parainfluenza virus. Swelling/edema of the subglottic area (laryngo-tracheo-bronchitis)
 - iii. Clinical Presentation:
 1. Viral URI prodrome followed by fever, barky cough, stridor, and retractions. Not usually ill appearing.
 2. Worse in middle of night
 3. Gets better with warm steam or cold air.
 4. Steeple sign on AP soft tissue X-ray of neck.
 - iv. Management: Decadron p.o x 1.

NOTE

This was not an exhaustive treatise on croup. They are high yield points that help paint a picture of a child with croup. It helps us diagnose the condition. It helps us distinguish this disease from other cough or stridor diseases.

The above is an example of a single illness script which is useful. It is more useful to write a bunch of scripts together. For example, a child with croup is likely to present with stridor in an a child under 4. Therefore, what is the differential for stridor in kids under four? Croup, epiglottitis, retropharyngeal abscess, foreign body, laryngomalacia. Therefore, do illness scripts for these diagnoses. Put them on a single table or a single word document so that you can compare and contrast. See next page for an Illness Script Template in Table form.

Illness Script Template

Stridor in child under 4					
	Croup	Epiglottitis	Foreign Body	RPA	Laryngomalacia
Epidemiology					
Pathophysiology					
Clinical Presentation – Hx					
Clinical Presentation – PE					
Diagnostic Tests					
Management					