Identifying Risk Factors for Baclofen Pump Infections

Intrathecal baclofen (ITB) is a common and effective treatment for medically intractable spasticity and dystonia in children with movement disorders, especially cerebral palsy. The use of implantable devices for ITB delivery has had a positive impact on the quality of life experienced by many of these affected pediatric patients. Unfortunately, the surgical insertion and postoperative maintenance of these products are associated with a myriad of complications, including a relatively high rate of infection; reported infection rates range from 4-66% in the literature. ITB pump infections create an increased risk of morbidity and mortality, as well as higher healthcare costs.

The long term goals of this study are to determine the percentage of patients with infectious complications, assess targeted variables that may be related to the infections, and identify the factors that show a statistically significant impact on infection rates. This will allow us to implement quality improvement initiatives to reduce ITB pump infections that we can study prospectively in the future.

The medical student’s role would be chart review, data collection and data analysis.