**Pediatric patient with CROUP**

- **Clinical assessment to determine severity**

  - **MILD:**
    - No stridor at rest
    - Barking cough
    - Hoarse voice
    - Stridor only during agitation/activity
    - No or mild WOB

    - Dexamethasone PO * 0.6mg/kg, single dose

  - **MODERATE:**
    - Stridor at rest
    - Tachypnea
    - Moderate WOB
    - Anxiety/agitation
    - Difficulty talking or feeding

    - Dexamethasone PO * 0.6mg/kg, single dose

    - Racemic Epinephrine 2.25%, 0.5mL Neb (Repeat q20min PRN)

  - **SEVERE / IMPENDING RESPIRATORY FAILURE:**
    - Stridor at rest
    - Severe WOB or respiratory fatigue
    - Decreased LOC
    - Inability to talk or feed
    - Self-positioning (e.g., tripoding)
    - Cyanosis/hypoxia

    - Dexamethasone PO * 0.6mg/kg, single dose

    - Racemic Epinephrine 2.25%, 0.5mL Neb (Repeat q20min PRN)

    - Place PIV

    - Supplemental Oxygen PRN

    - Consider Intubation

    - Consider Call to Specialists: PICU, Anesthesia, ENT

- **Discharge Criteria:**
  - No or minimal stridor at rest
  - No or minimal WOB
  - Able to tolerate PO
  - > 2 hours after last racemic epinephrine
  - < 3 racemic epinephrine treatments

  - **Discharge Home**
    - Cool mist
    - Supportive care
    - Consider flu in 24-48hrs

    - Yes

    - Improved?

    - No

    - Admit to Pediatric Ward

    - Yes

    - Improved?

    - No

    - Admit to PICU

- **Evaluation & therapies NOT supported by evidence in hospital setting:**
  - X-ray (chest, lateral neck)
  - Laboratory studies (including viral testing)
  - Continuous pulse oximetry monitoring
  - Antibiotics
  - Cool mist

* **Dexamethasone PO:**
  - Dose: 0.6mg/kg (Max 16mg; acceptable range 0.15-0.6mg/kg), single dose
  - Alternative route: IM, IV
  - If unable to administer Dexamethasone, consider: Budesonide 2mg nebulized, single dose

**Consider Alternative Diagnoses IF:**
- Age <6 mo or >6 yrs
- Stridor >4 days or cough >10 days
- Recurrent croup within 1 mo
- Toxic appearance
- Asymmetric respiratory exam
- Poor response to treatment