Chapter 12: Patient Assessment in the Field

Patient assessment means conducting a ______________-oriented evaluation of your patient and establishing priorities of care based on existing and potential threats to human life.

Components of Patient Assessment

- Scene size-up
- ______________ assessment
- Secondary assessment
- ______________ physical exam
- ______________

Scene Size-up

- Body substance isolation
- Scene ________________________________
- Location of all patients
- Mechanism of ________________________________
- Nature of the illness

Always stop to ________________________________ the scene before going in.

Body Substance Isolation

- The best defense against blood-borne, ________________________________-borne, and air-borne agents is to take appropriate body substance isolation precautions.

Always wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (_________) to prevent exposure to contagious diseases.

Careful, methodical hand ________________________________ helps reduce exposure to contagious disease.

Place all contaminated items in the appropriate ________________________________ bag.

With a suspected tuberculosis patient, you may place a surgical-type mask on the patient while you wear a ________________________________ -approved respirator. Monitor the patient's airway and breathing carefully.

Scene Safety

- Scene safety simply means doing everything possible to ensure a safe environment for yourself, your crew, other responding personnel, your patient, and any ________________________________—in that order.

Look for potential ________________________________ during scene size-up.

Even the most peaceful-looking scene can pose potential dangers.

Wait for the ________________________________ before entering a potentially hazardous scene.

Never enter a ________________________________ rescue situation without proper training and equipment.
16 Rescue Operations Equipment

- Eye Protection
- Hearing Protection
- Work Gloves
- Steel-Toed Boots
- Insulated Coveralls
- Gear

17 Full protective gear, including eye protection, helmet, turnout gear, and gloves is sometimes necessary

18 Self-contained breathing apparatus (___________)

19 Hazardous materials responses require special training and ________________.

20 If you do not have the proper gear AND the proper ________________, do not get involved in the rescue. Call someone who has the gear and training ________________.

21 Lines help to keep bystanders out of hazardous scenes.

22 Patient Safety Equipment for Rescue Operations

- Hard hat or helmet
- ________________ protection
- Hearing and respiratory protection
- Protective ________________
- Protective shielding
  - From power tools
  - From ________________

23 Protect the patient from ________________ at the scene.

24 Location of All Patients

- Scene size-up also includes a search of the area to locate all of the patients.
- Call for ________________ early in operations

25 Follow local ________________ when you respond to a mass-casualty incident.

26 Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)

- When the situation overwhelms the ________________ of a local EMS service

27 The incident ________________ directs the response and coordinates resources at a multiple-casualty incident.

28 The __________________________ person examines and prioritizes patients.

29 Mechanism of Injury (MOI)

- Mechanism of injury is the combined strength,
Nature of forces that injured your patient.

- Simply put it is what caused the injury?
- Fall, MVC, shotgun wound, etc.
- Can give many clues to the types and severity of the

Always maintain a high index of

With trauma, try to determine the mechanism of injury during scene

Nature of Illness
To determine the nature of illness:

- Use family members, or the patient.
- Use the to give clues to the patient's condition.
- Remember that sometimes the patient's illness may be very

The Primary Assessment
The primary assessment is designed to identify and immediately life-threatening patient conditions of the Airway, Breathing, and Circulation (ABCs).

Primary Assessment Steps

- Form an impression.
- Stabilize the spine.
- Assess the baseline status.
- Assess the airway.
- Assess breathing.
- Assess circulation.
- Determine

The primary assessment should take less than one minute, unless you have to intervene with measures.

The General Impression

- The general impression is the initial, intuitive evaluation of the patient to determine the clinical status and priority for transport.
- Consider age, gender, and appearance
- ID as medical or
- If a patient looks he/she probably is

stabilize the head and neck on first patient contact if trauma or unsure.

Place a folded towel under your young patient's to keep the airway aligned.

Mental Status
A patient's mental status is a very important sign

- Alert

-
Painful stimuli

Try to determine what the ________________ mental status on each patient.

**Airway Assessment**

- If the patient is responsive and can speak clearly, assume the airway is ________________.
- If the patient is unconscious, the airway may be ________________.

**Airway Management Techniques**

Your unconscious patient’s tongue may fall and close the ________________ airway.

Use the ________________ to open your patient’s airway if you suspect a cervical spine injury.

The ________________ / chin lift maneuver in an adult.

The head-tilt/ chin lift maneuver in an infant. Do not overextend the head and neck.

_____________________ fluids from your patient’s airway as needed.

Immediately use a ________________ mask to ventilate patients who are not moving air.

Use an oropharyngeal airway for unconscious patients ________________ a gag reflex.

The nasopharyngeal airway rests between the tongue and the ________________ pharyngeal wall.

**Endotracheal**

**Pharyngotraceal Lumen Airway**

**Esophageal Tracheal**

**Needle**

**Assessing Breathing**

**Signs of Inadequate Breathing**

1. Altered mental status
2. Shortness of breath
3. Asymmetric chest wall movement
4. Accessory muscle use
5. Audible sounds
6. Abnormal rate or
7. Nasal flaring

**Chest Injuries Causing Inadequate Breathing**
Sucking Chest Wound
Pneumothorax/Hemothorax

Circulation Assessment
The circulation assessment consists of evaluating the pulse and skin and controlling

Evaluate Pulse for:
- Rate
- Quality

To assess an adult's circulation, feel for a pulse.

If you cannot feel a radial pulse, palpate for a pulse.

To assess an infant's circulation, palpate the pulse.

Control major pulse.

Assess the pulse.

Capillary refill time provides important information about the status of infants and young children.

Elevate your patient's feet if you suspect circulatory without trauma.

Apply a pneumatic garment according to your local protocol.

En route to the hospital, establish an .

Priority Determination
Once the initial assessment is completed, determine the patient's .

Top Priority Patients
1. Poor general
2. Airway Compromise
   - Complicated childbirth
   - Chest pain and BP below systolic
   - Uncontrolled bleeding
   - Severe pain
   - Serious or injuries
transport for a high priority patient and continue assessment and care en route.

The Secondary Assessment

Types of Patients

- Patient with significant mechanism of injury.
- Trauma patient with isolated injury.
- Responsive medical patient.
- Unresponsive _________________ patient.

The Major Trauma Patient

The major trauma patient is one who:

- Sustained significant mechanism of ________________
- Exhibits ________________ mental status from the incident.

Predictors of Serious Internal Injury

1. ____________________ from vehicle
   - Death in same passenger compartment
   - Fall from higher than 20 feet
   - ____________________ of vehicle
2. High-speed motor vehicle collision
   - Vehicle-pedestrian ____________________
   - Motorcycle crash
   - Penetration of the ____________________ , chest, or abdomen

Mechanism of Injury Considerations for Infants and Children

- Fall from higher than __________ feet
- ____________________ collision
- Medium-speed ____________________ collision with resulting severe vehicle deformity

Evaluate the trauma ____________________ to determine the mechanism of injury.

A ____________________ steering wheel indicates potentially serious injuries.

Rapid Secondary Assessment (Rapid Trauma Assessment)

- ____________________ a detailed physical exam
- Fast, systematic assessment life-threatening injuries
- Should be done on patients with significant ____________
- Should be done in just a few seconds, unless treatment is required
- Use ____________________

DCAP-BTLS

1. D ____________________
   - Contusion
   - Abrasion
   - P ____________________
2. Burns
   - T ____________________
Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Head and Neck

The first step in the rapid secondary assessment is to periodically examine your gloves for lacerations.

Inspect and palpate the neck. Pay particular attention to tracheal deviation and subcutaneous emphysema.

Inspect and palpate the neck. Note any tenderness, irregularity, or edema.

Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Chest

Palpate the chest. Stabilize the chest. Seal any sucking chest wound with tape on sides. Perform needle aspiration to relieve tension pneumothorax if authorized.

Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Abdomen

All 4 quadrants should be palpated at a time.

Rapid Secondary Assessment: The Pelvis and Extremities

Medic alert can give important information about the patient's condition and medical history.

Assess the integrity of the pelvis by gently pressing on the pelvic ring.

Compress pelvis.

Palpate the.

Palpate the.

Palpate the pedis pulse to evaluate distal circulation in the leg.

Assess distal sensation and function.

Inspect and palpate the body.

VITAL SIGNS

Pulse rate and blood pressure

Respiration rate and quality
The Isolated Injury Trauma Patient

- No significant mechanism of injury
- Shows no signs of ___________________________ involvement
- Does not require a comprehensive ___________________________ exam
- Does not require an ___________________________ rapid trauma assessment
- Concentrate on area of ___________________________

The Responsive Medical Patient

Assessing the responsive patient with a medical emergency is entirely different from assessing the trauma patient in __________ ways…..

Differences

- The ___________________________ takes precedence over the physical exam.
- The ___________________________ exam is aimed at identifying medical complications rather than signs of injury.

Begin ___________________________ while you assess your responsive medical patient.

The History

- Chief complaint
- History of the ___________________________ illness
- Past ___________________________
- Current ___________________________ status

Chief Complaint

- The pain, discomfort, or ___________________________ causing patient to call for help
- “What seems to be the ___________________________ ?”

The History of the Present Illness (OPQRST-ASPN)

- O ___________________________
- Provocation
  or
  P ___________________________
- Quality
- Region/Radiation
- Severity
- T ___________________________

2. Associated Symptoms
- P ___________________________ Negatives
Past Medical History

- State of health
- Childhood and adult diseases
- Psychiatric illnesses
- Accidents and injuries
- And hospitalizations

Current Health Status

1. Current medications
   - Tobacco use
   - Alcohol and substance abuse
   - Screening exams
   - Immunizations

2. Sleep patterns
   - Exercise and leisure activities
   - Environmental hazards
   - Use of measures
   - Family history
   - Social history

Focused Physical Exam (1 of 5)

- Lip and oral mucosa color
- Swelling, hives, redness

Focused Physical Exam (2 of 5)

- Accessory muscle use and retractions
- Carotid arteries
- JVD
- Position

Focused Physical Exam (3 of 5)

- Respiratory rate and pattern
- Symmetry of chest wall
- Lung sounds
- Percussion

Focused Physical Exam (4 of 5)

- Signs of arterial insufficiency
- Peripheral pulses
- Sounds
Focused Physical Exam (5 of 5)

- Pulses, sensation, movement
- ________________________________/pitting edema

- Abdominal muscle use
- Distension/Tenderness
- ________________________________
- Pulsation of descending aorta
- Palpate the quadrants

Check for ________________________________ edema.

Baseline Vital Signs
- Blood pressure
- ________________________________
- Respiration
- Temperature
- ________________________________
- Orthostatic ________________________________(if possibly hypovolemic)
  commonly called “Tilt Test”

Additional Assessment Techniques
- Pulse ________________________________
- Cardiac monitoring
- Blood ________________________________ determination
  ________________________________

Assessing the Unresponsive Medical Patient
- ________________________________ assessment
- Rapid ________________________________ assessment
- Brief history
- Expedite transport, performing ongoing assessment every ____________ minutes en route

Detailed Physical Exam: The Head and Neck

Inspect and palpate the ________________________________ from front to back.

Inspect and palpate the ________________________________ bones.

Inspect the mastoid process for ________________________________ sign.

Check the ________________________________ for reaction to light.

Check for ________________________________ movement.

Inspect the ear canal for ________________________________

Examine the ________________________________ mucosa for drainage.

Examine the ________________________________ mucosa for pallor.

Palpate the ________________________________ for midline position.
Detailed Physical Exam: The Torso

Palpate the ____________________________.

Auscultate the ____________________________.

Palpate the ____________________________.

Evaluate the ____________________________.

Evaluate the Extremities

- Peripheral pulses
- ____________________________
- Capillary Refill
- ____________________________
- Sensation

Areas of Nervous System Exam

- Mental status and speech
- ____________________________ system
- ____________________________ system

Reassessment

- Detects ____________________________
- Determines changes
- Assesses intervention’s ____________________________

Reassessment

1. ____________________________ status
   - Airway patency
   - Breathing rate and quality
   - Pulse rate and quality
   - Skin condition

2. ____________________________ priorities
   - Vital signs
   - Focused assessment
   - Effects of ____________________________
   - Management plans

Re-evaluate the ____________________________.

Take all the ____________________________ signs again.

Perform your ____________________________ assessment again.

Evaluate your ____________________________ effects.