

Shock

Shock, or **circulatory failure**, is a complex clinical syndrome characterized by inadequate tissue perfusion to meet the metabolic demands of the body, resulting in cellular dysfunction and eventual organ failure. Although the causes are different, the physiologic consequences are the same and include hypotension, tissue hypoxia, and metabolic acidosis. Circulatory failure in children is a result of hypovolemia, altered peripheral vascular resistance, or pump failure. Types of shock are listed in [Box 23-13](#).

Box 23-13

Types of Shock

Hypovolemic

Characteristics

Reduction in size of vascular compartment

Falling BP

Poor capillary filling

Low CVP

Most Frequent Causes

Blood loss (hemorrhagic shock): Trauma, gastrointestinal bleeding, intracranial hemorrhage

Plasma loss: Increased capillary permeability associated with sepsis and acidosis, hypoproteinemia, burns, peritonitis

Extracellular fluid loss: Vomiting, diarrhea, glycosuric diuresis, sunstroke

Distributive

Characteristics