



## ICU Trauma

# ABCDE Approach including Primary and Secondary Survey

### Quick 10 second assessment of ABCD by:

- Identifying yourself to the patient
- Ask patient's name and what has happened

### If patient answers lucidly, then YOU KNOW:

- Patent airway - patient is talking
- Adequate circulation: brain perfusion maintained (patient answered questions)
- Neurological status is good as patient can recall events

## Primary Survey

# A

### A – Airway (with restriction of c-spine movement)

- Foreign bodies, facial trauma, tracheal/laryngeal trauma
- Suction to clear blood/saliva
- Establish airway if in doubt patient can maintain their own
- Use jaw thrust or chin lift, DO NOT head tilt
- Insert oropharyngeal airway

ALWAYS ASSUME C-SPINE INJURY UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE – FIT C-SPINE COLLAR WHEN POSSIBLE

# B

### B – Breathing

- Expose patient's chest and neck
- Check position of trachea
- Assess chest wall movement
- Auscultate the chest
- Give oxygen

### LOOK for

- Tension pneumothorax
- Massive haemothorax
- Open pneumothorax
- Tracheal or broncheal injuries

# C

### C – Circulation

- Signs of bleeding?
- Pulse and BP
- CRT and skin perfusion
- Level of consciousness

Bleeding control and fluid replacement – IV access 2 large bore cannulae or Intraosseous access

# D

### D – Disability and neurological status

- GCS is quick, simple and objective to determine conscious level in Trauma patient
- Reduced GCS may indicate  $<O_2$  and/or brain perfusion, or cerebral injury
- Drugs, alcohol and hypoglycaemia affect conscious level: these may be present in conjunction with TBI

# E

### E – Exposure/environmental control

- Hypothermia is potential problem for trauma patients: can lead to coagulopathy, poor haemorrhage control and death
- Cover patient, use warming devices
- Use fluid warmers



## ICU Trauma ABCDE Approach including Primary and Secondary Survey

### Secondary Survey:

Head to toe examination of trauma patient covering all areas of the body – taking into account Mechanism of Injury (Mol) and patient history (AMPLE: Allergies, Medication, Previous illness/Pregnancy, Last food/drink, Events/ environment surrounding injury)

### Secondary Survey

Mol is important for potential injury patterns  
to be established

Broadly divided into blunt trauma and  
penetrating trauma

Thermal trauma may be present.  
Environmental history is important to establish  
exposure to hazardous substances

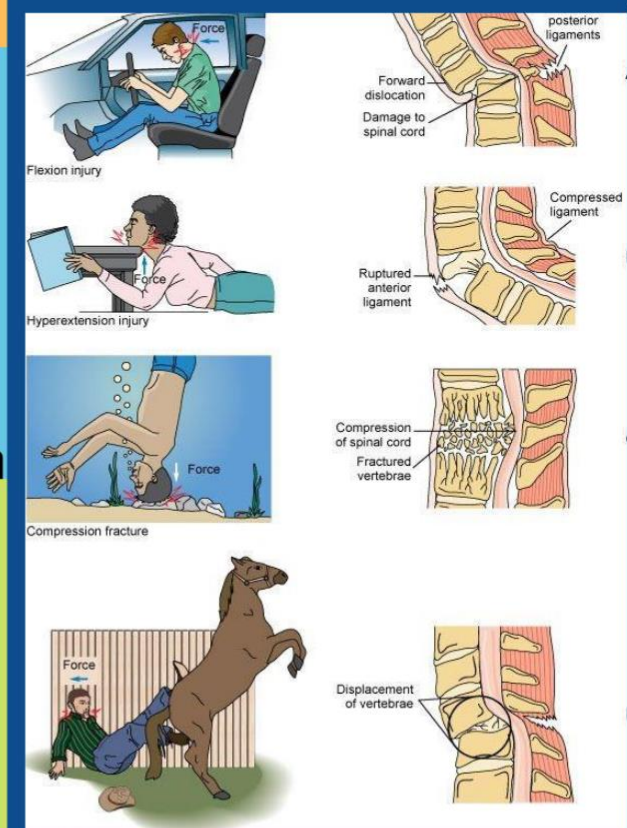


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