



Lightning/Lightning Strike Injury

Aliases

Lightning burn

Patient Care Goals

1. Identify patient(s) as lightning strike victim(s)
2. Move to safe area
3. Initiate immediate resuscitation of cardiac arrest victim(s), within limits of mass casualty care, also known as "reverse triage"
4. Cardiac monitoring during transport
5. Treat associated traumatic injuries

Patient Presentation

1. Lightning strikes may happen in a variety of environmental conditions
 - a. Most commonly they occur in outdoor or wilderness circumstances
 - b. Golf courses, exposed mountains or ledges and farms/fields all present conditions that increase risk of lightning strike, when hazardous meteorological conditions exist
2. Lacking bystander observations or history, it is not always immediately apparent that patient has been the victim of a lightning strike
Subtle findings such as injury patterns might suggest lightning injury

Inclusion Criteria

Patients of all ages who have been the victim of lightning strike injury

Exclusion Criteria

No recommendations

Patient Management

Assessment

1. Respiratory
 - a. Apnea
 - b. Agonal respirations
 - c. Respiratory paralysis
2. Cardiovascular
 - a. Dysrhythmias
 - b. Transient hypertension
3. Neurologic
 - a. Seizures
 - b. Confusion
 - c. Paralysis
 - d. Paraplegia
 - e. Vertigo/dizziness
 - f. Paresthesias
 - g. Amnesia
 - h. Memory deficits