

- a. Contusions
- b. Abrasions
- c. Hematomas
- d. Jugular vein distention (JVD)
- e. Tracheal deviation
- 2. Palpate for crepitus
- 3. Spinal assessment per [Spinal Care Guideline](#)
- ii. Chest – See [Initial Treatment](#)
  - 1. Palpate for instability/crepitus
  - 2. Listen to breath sounds
  - 3. Inspect for penetrating or soft tissue injuries
- iii. Abdomen
  - 1. Palpate for tenderness
  - 2. Inspect for penetrating or soft tissue injuries
  - 3. Cover eviscerated abdominal contents with moist dressings
- iv. Pelvis
  - 1. Inspect for penetrating or soft tissue injuries
  - 2. Palpate once for instability by applying medial pressure on the iliac crests bilaterally
- v. Back
  - 1. Maintain spinal alignment. Refer to [Spinal Care Guideline](#)
  - 2. Inspect for penetrating or soft tissue injuries
- vi. Neurologic status assessment [See [Appendix VII. Neurologic Status Assessment](#)]
  - 1. Serial assessment of mental status
  - 2. Gross exam of motor strength and sensation in all four extremities
- vii. Extremities
  - 1. Assess for fracture/deformity – See [Extremity Trauma/External Hemorrhage Management Guideline](#)
  - 2. Assess peripheral pulses/capillary refill
- c. Additional treatment considerations
  - i. Maintain spine precautions per the [Spinal Care Guideline](#)
  - ii. Splint obvious extremity fractures per the [Extremity Trauma/External Hemorrhage Management Guideline](#)
  - iii. Provide pain medication per the [Pain Management Guideline](#)

#### **Patient Safety Considerations**

- 1. Life-threatening injuries identified on primary survey should be mitigated immediately with rapid transport to a trauma center
- 2. Monitor patient for deterioration over time with serial vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment) and repeat neurologic status assessment [See [Appendix VII. Neurologic Status Assessment](#)]
  - a. Patients with compensated shock may not manifest hypotension until severe blood loss has occurred
  - b. Patients with traumatic brain injury may deteriorate as intracranial swelling and hemorrhage increase. [See [Head Injury Guideline](#)]
- 3. Anticipate potential for progressive airway compromise in patients with trauma to head and neck