



- b. Oral intake
- c. Medications
- d. Alcohol
- e. Illicit drugs
- f. Overdose
- g. Withdrawal risk
- 2. Environmental Assessment:
  - a. Ambient temperature and humidity
  - b. Exertion level
  - c. Length of time at risk
  - d. Attire (clothing worn)
  - e. Confined space
    - i. **Pediatric Considerations:** Children left in cars who show signs of altered mental status and elevated body temperature should be presumed to have hyperthermia
- 3. Associated Symptoms:
  - a. Cramps
  - b. Headache
  - c. Orthostatic symptoms
  - d. Nausea
  - e. Weakness
  - f. Mental status changes, including
    - i. Confusion
    - ii. Coma
    - iii. Seizures
    - iv. Psychosis
- 4. Vital signs:
  - a. Core temperature: usually 104°F or greater (if thermometer available)
  - b. Skin:
    - i. Flushed and hot
    - ii. Dry or sweaty
    - iii. Signs of first or second degree burns from sun exposure
  - c. Other signs of poor perfusion/shock

### **Treatment and Interventions**

- 1. Move victim to a cool area and shield from the sun or any external heat source
- 2. Remove as much clothing as is practical and loosen any restrictive garments
- 3. If alert and oriented, give small sips of cool liquids
- 4. If altered mental status, check blood glucose level
- 5. Manage airway as indicated
- 6. Place on cardiac monitor and record ongoing vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment)
- 7. If core temperature is greater than 104°F (40°C) or if altered mental status is present, begin active cooling by:
  - a. Ice bath immersion provides the most rapid cooling mechanism
  - b. If ice bath immersion is not available, consider the following:
    - i. Tarp-assisted cooling with oscillation
    - ii. Rotating ice water-soaked towels or sheets