


CHAPTER 30

Putting It All Together for the Trauma Patient



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Key Term

Multiple Trauma

A patient with more than one serious injury

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General Principles

- Practice assessment & care.
- Follow priorities of initial assessment.
 - Airway
 - Breathing
 - Circulation

Continued...

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General Principles

- Utilize the “Golden Hour.”
- Balance the need of scene interventions with time required to perform them.

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General Principles

For most critical patients, limit scene time to:

- Airway management
- Oxygen administration
- Bleeding control
- Long board immobilization

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General Principles

Management of multi-trauma:

- Scene safety is paramount.
- Assure open airway.
- Perform urgent/emergency moves as necessary.
- Adapt to situation.

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General Principles

Treatment goal:

- Prompt transport to a facility that will provide definitive care.
- Treating noncritical injuries may result in spending too much time on the scene.

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Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Motorcycle vs. Car
- 25-year-old male
- Unresponsive
- Pool of blood

Continued...

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Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Gurgling/snoring sounds with respiration
- Suction and oral airway
- BVM assisted ventilations

Continued...

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Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Bleeding from angulated left thigh
- Rapid, weak pulse; sweaty skin
- Transport decision

Continued...

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Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Rapid trauma assessment
- Injuries to the head, chest, femur
- Immobilization of the body on long board

Continued...

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Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Prompt transportation
- Frequent reassessment en route

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Review Questions

1. What considerations must the EMT–B weigh when considering whether to perform interventions at the scene?
2. What are the interventions that should generally be performed for a critical trauma patient at the scene?

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Review Questions


3. When might it be appropriate for EMT–Bs to bypass a closer hospital for a trauma center?
4. What are the three “Ts” of multiple trauma patient management?

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Review Questions

5. When might it be appropriate not to apply a traction splint in the field to an obviously fractured femur?


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STREET SCENES

- What is your initial impression of the crash?
- What additional resources will be necessary on scene?


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STREET SCENES

- Which patient should be transported first?
- What is your critical decision regarding the female patient?

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STREET SCENES

- What critical interventions should you perform on scene to the female patient?
- What further information would you like to obtain about the female patient?

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