


Emergency Medical Responder

INJURIES TO THE CHEST, ABDOMEN AND GENITALIA



Chest Injuries

- There are two categories of chest injuries
 - 1) Closed
 - 2) Open





Emergency Care of Closed Chest Injuries

- 1) Maintain open airway
- 2) Ensure adequate ventilations
- 3) Control any external bleeding
- 4) Allow patient to get into position of comfort
- 5) Monitor vitals



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Blunt Injuries to the chest are life threatening.

- These closed injuries can cause
- 1) Pulmonary contusions
 - 2) Myocardial contusions
 - 3) Traumatic asphyxia





Rib Fractures

Rib Fracture – Complications:

- Pneumothorax
- Hemothorax
- Subcutaneous emphysema
- Lacerate inter-costal vessels
- Lung contusions
- Injuries to the liver or spleen



Flail Chest

Flail Chest – Signs and Symptoms of

- Shortness of breath
- Paradoxical breathing
- Swelling over injured area
- Signs of shock
- Increasing airway resistance
- Patients attempt to splint chest wall with hands and arms
- Possible grating sounds





Penetrating Injuries

Penetrating injuries are open chest wounds in which the chest wall is torn, typically by a foreign object.

The most common are:

- Stabbing wounds
- Gunshot wounds



Penetrating Wounds

- Penetrating wounds can result in
 - Lacerating great vessels in chest
 - Massive bleeding
 - Sucking chest wounds
 - Pneumothorax
 - Hemothorax
 - Laceration of heart and lungs





Abdominal Injuries

Treatment of abdominal injuries

- Maintain open airway
- Expose abdomen
- Suspect and treat for shock
- Control external bleeding
- Position patient comfortably



Figure 21-13a Cut away clothing.

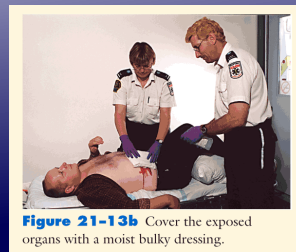


Figure 21-13b Cover the exposed organs with a moist bulky dressing.

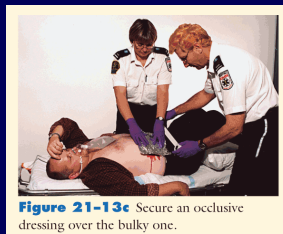


Figure 21-13c Secure an occlusive dressing over the bulky one.






Injuries to the Genitalia

Injuries to Genitalia

- Male Genitalia – If the penis is torn or avulsed
 - Wrap injured penis in soft, sterile dressing moistened with saline
 - Apply a cold pack to reduce pain and swelling
 - Never remove impaled objects, stabilize them instead
 - Wrap avulsed skin in sterile gauze moistened with saline



Injuries to the Genitalia

- Female Genitalia- Treating injuries:
 - Control the bleeding with local pressure, using moistened compresses
 - Dress the wounds
 - Use cold packs over the dressing to relieve pain and swelling
 - Treat the patient for shock

