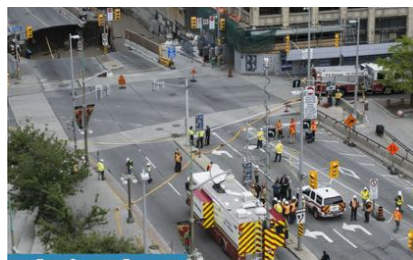


Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

A SKILLS APPROACH

MEETS PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S
NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE



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Chapter 24

Injuries to the Head,
Face, and Neck

Objectives (1 of 2)

- List 14 signs and symptoms of a head injury.
- Describe the emergency medical care of injuries to the head.
- Establish the relationship between facial injuries and airway management.
- Describe the emergency care of injuries to the face, including injuries to the jaw, cheek, nose, and ear.



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Objectives (2 of 2)

- Describe the emergency care of injuries to the neck.
- Outline the six components of the examination of an eye injury.
- Describe the emergency care of injuries to the eye, including foreign objects; injuries to the orbits, eyelids, and globes; impaled objects; and extruded eyeball.
- Outline the procedure for flushing chemical burns to the eye.

General Signs and Symptoms of a Head Injury (1 of 2)

- Altered mental status
- Irregular breathing
- Open scalp wound
- Penetrating head wounds
- Softness or depression of skull
- Blood or cerebrospinal fluid leaking from the ear or nose
- Facial bruises

General Signs and Symptoms of a Head Injury (2 of 2)

- Raccoon eyes
- Bruising behind ears
- Abnormal pulses, movement, sensation
- Severe and disabling headache or one of sudden onset
- Nausea, vomiting
- Unequal pupils
- Seizures

Signs and Symptoms of a Skull Fracture

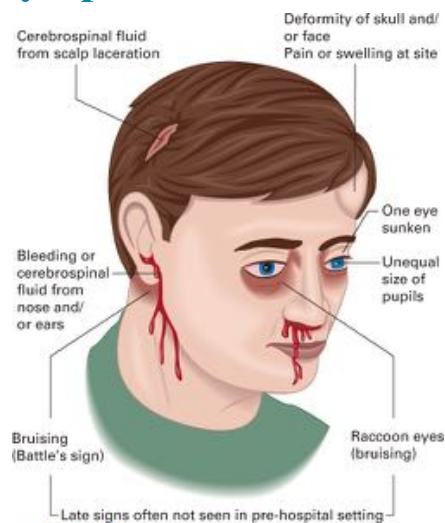


Figure 24-4 Signs and symptoms of skull fracture.

General Emergency Care for Head Injuries

- Make airway a top priority
- Control bleeding and dress open wounds
- Apply a rigid cervical immobilization device
- Monitor vitals
- Calm and reassure patient

Signs and Symptoms of a Brain Injury (1 of 2)

- Changes in mental status
- Paralysis or flaccidity
- Unequal facial movement, squinting, drooping, unequal or unreactive pupils, vision disturbances
- Ringing in ears or loss of hearing
- Rigidity of all limbs
- Loss of balance

Signs and Symptoms of a Brain Injury (2 of 2)

- Slow, strong heartbeat that gradually becomes rapid and weak
- High blood pressure with slow pulse
- Rapid, laboured breathing or disturbances in breathing pattern
- Vomiting after head injury
- Incontinence

Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion (1 of 2)

- Momentary confusion
- Inability to recall events before and after injury
- Repeatedly asking what happened
- Mild to moderate irritability
- Inability to answer questions or obey commands

Signs and Symptoms of a Concussion (2 of 2)

- Persistent vomiting
- Incontinence
- Restlessness
- Seizures
- Brief loss of consciousness

Signs and Symptoms of Facial Injuries

- Distortion of facial features
- Numbness or pain
- Bruising or swelling
- Bleeding from nose or mouth
- Limited jaw motion
- Missing teeth or teeth that don't meet
- Double vision
- Asymmetry of facial bones

Signs and Symptoms of Jaw Injuries

- Mouth won't open or close
- Drooling of saliva mixed with blood
- Difficulty swallowing
- Pain when speaking or difficulty speaking
- Missing, loosened, or uneven teeth
- Teeth that don't meet
- Pain in areas around the ears

Nose Injuries

- Take special care to ensure an open airway
- Position patient to prevent blood draining into the throat
- Apply cold packs to reduce swelling

Ear Injuries

- When dressing an injured ear, place part of the dressing between it and the side of the head
- Never probe the ear

Signs and Symptoms of Neck Injuries

- Obvious lacerations or other wounds
- Deformities or depressions
- Obvious swelling
- Difficulty speaking
- Airway obstruction
- Cracking sensations under skin

Eye Injuries

Carefully examine

- Orbits
- Eyelids
- Mucous membranes
- Globes
- Pupils
- Movement

Basic Emergency Care of an Injured Eye

(1 of 2)

- Flushing – only for chemical injury and if eye is not perforated
- No salves or medicines
- Do not remove blood clots
- Don't force eye open unless flushing

Basic Emergency Care of an Injured Eye

(2 of 2)

- Do not let patient walk without help
- Patch both eyes
- Do not allow patient to eat or drink
- Don't panic
- Have patient see doctor

Extruded or Impaled Eyeball

- With an extruded eyeball or an impaled object in the eye you should cover both eyes but do not apply pressure
- With an extruded eyeball, do not try to replace it, cover it with moist dressings
- With an impaled object, do not attempt removal of foreign body. Keep patient still and keep talking to or touching the patient so they know you are there.