



Management of the Trauma Patient

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Trauma in the United States

- 2.7 million hospital admissions per year
- Leading cause of death for ages 1-44 years
- 100,000 deaths per year from traumatic injuries
 - Half die before they reach medical care
- Hemorrhage is second-leading cause of death in trauma

Primary Survey

- Advanced Trauma Life Support
- Assess and address life threatening injuries in order
- “ABCDE of trauma”
 - Airway
 - Breathing
 - Circulation
 - Neurologic “deficit”
 - Exposure of patient

Airway

- Identify airway obstruction
- Maintain cervical spine immobilization
- May require definitive airway
 - Orotracheal intubation
 - Blind nasotracheal intubation
 - Cricothyroidotomy
 - Tracheotomy

Breathing

- Identify life threatening deficits in breathing mechanism
 - Simple pneumothorax
 - Tension pneumothorax
 - Massive hemothorax
 - Open pneumothorax (“sucking chest wound”)
 - Flail chest



Circulation

- Or, identification of shock
 - Definition of shock – *inadequate organ perfusion*
- Causes of shock
 - Hemorrhage/hypovolemia
 - Obstructive
 - Cardiogenic
 - Distributive

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Blood Loss mL	Up to 750	750-1500	1500-2000	>2000
Blood Loss %	Up to 15%	15-30%	30-40%	>40%
Pulse rate	<100	>100	>120	>140
Systolic blood pressure	Normal	Normal	Decreased	Decreased
Pulse pressure	Normal	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased
Respiratory rate	14-20	20-30	30-40	>35
Urine output	>30	20-30	5-15	Negligible
Mental status	Slightly anxious	Mildly anxious	Anxious, confused	Confused, lethargic
Fluid (3:1 rule)	Crystalloid	Crystalloid	Crystalloid and blood	Crystalloid and blood

Circulation

- Treatment of shock
- Direct pressure on external bleeding
- Initial 2 liter bolus of crystalloid fluid
 - Responders
 - Non-responders
 - Transient responders
- Definitive management for ongoing hemorrhage

Neurologic “deficit”

- Rapid assessment of neurologic status to identify life-threatening injury
 - Pupil size and response
 - Mental status (Glasgow coma scale)
 - Motor and sensory exam

Glascow Coma Scale

- 3 – 15 point scale to assess mental status only
- Best observed response
- GCS ≤ 8 is a “coma” and requires intubation for airway protection

Eye opening

- » None = 1
- » To painful stimuli only = 2
- » To voice only = 3
- » Spontaneously open = 4

Verbal response

- » None = 1
- » Incomprehensible sounds = 2
- » Incomprehensible words = 3
- » Confused = 4
- » Oriented = 5

Motor response

- » None = 1
- » Decerebrate (extension) posturing = 2
- » Decorticate (flexion) posturing = 3
- » Withdraws to pain = 4
- » Localizes pain = 5
- » Follows commands = 6

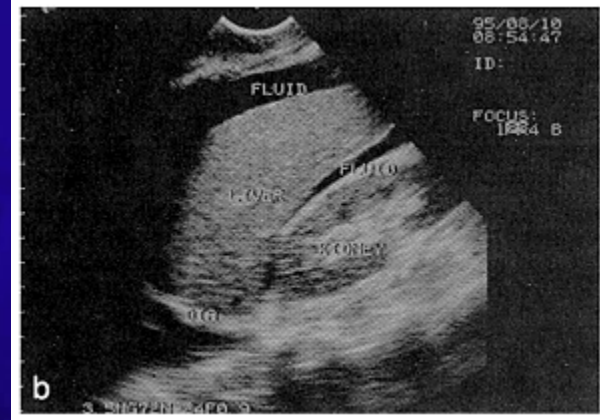
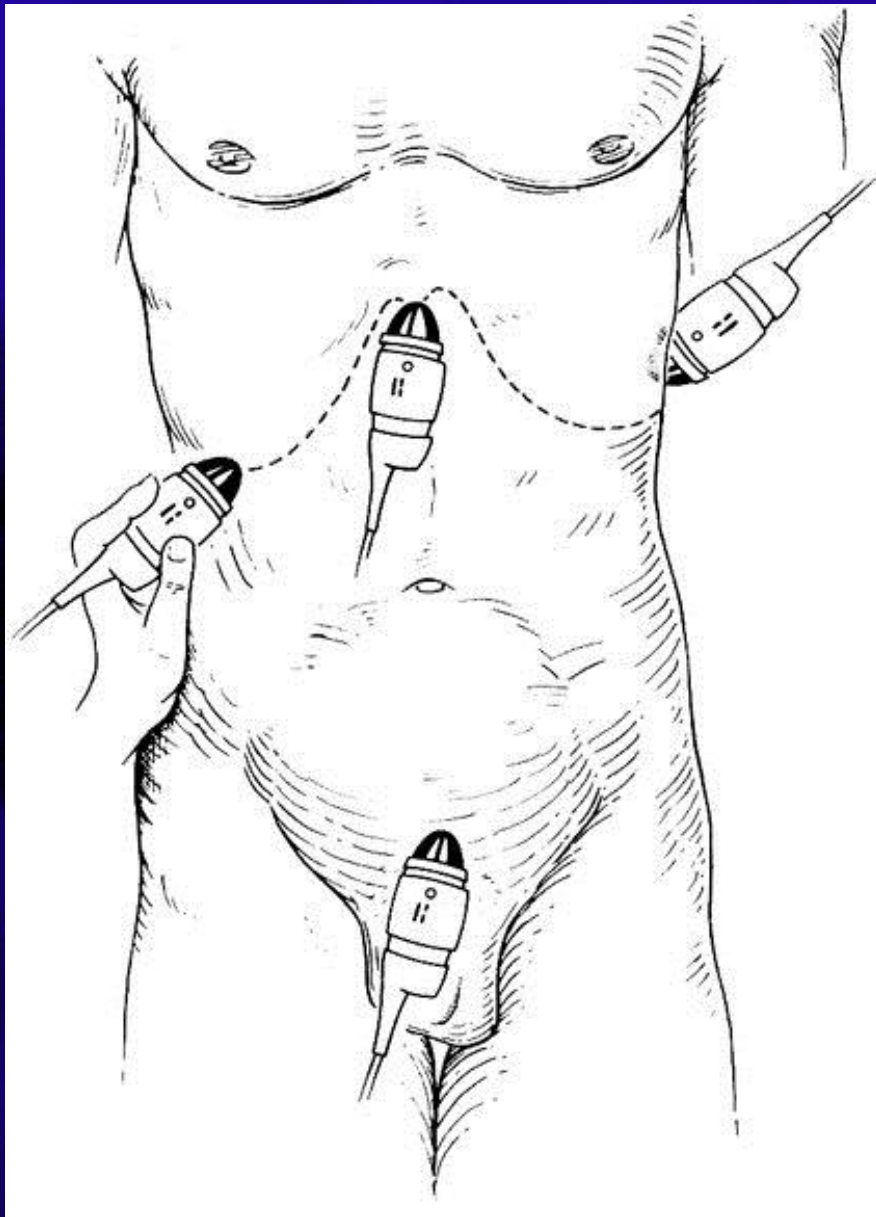
Exposure

Head to toe examination of the patient for injury

- Pitfalls
 - Maintenance of spine precautions
 - Prevention of heat loss
 - Under cervical collar
 - Back and flanks

Adjuncts to the Primary Survey

- Exams during or after primary survey to aid in identifying life-threatening injuries
 - Chest x-ray
 - Pelvis x-ray
 - Focused abdominal sonogram for trauma (FAST)
 - Diagnostic peritoneal lavage (DPL)



Secondary Survey and Definitive Treatment

- The secondary survey is a complete head to toe evaluation of the patient
- Adjuncts to the secondary survey include CT's, plain radiographs, blood tests
- Treatment plans, especially for multiple injuries, based on clinical status and specific injuries

Resuscitation

- Restoring organ perfusion
- How much is enough? What are the *endpoints of resuscitation*?
 - Heart rate, blood pressure, urine output
 - May lead to “compensated shock”
 - Organ-specific indicators of perfusion
 - ie gastric tonometry
 - Global indicators of perfusion
 - Lactic acid, base deficit
 - Cardiac output, oxygen delivery, oxygen consumption
 - Mixed venous O₂ saturation (SvO₂)

Lactic acid and base deficit

- Initial BD and serum LA are reliable indicators of the need for ongoing resuscitation



A photograph of a group of people in a meeting room, viewed through a semi-transparent blue overlay. The people are gathered around a table, looking at a laptop screen. The room has a whiteboard in the background with some diagrams and text, including a large letter 'A'. The overall scene suggests a collaborative work environment.

Questions?