

# AG31 Trauma

## Objectives:

- To appropriately assess and treat patients who have sustained traumatic injuries

## General Information:

- External bleeding control
  - a) Direct pressure (may require firm fingertip pressure at site)
  - b) Elevation
  - c) Pressure points
  - d) Tourniquet
    - i) Apply to the extremity proximal to the wound
    - ii) IV tourniquets are not effective for bleeding control
- Some patients should be transported directly to a trauma center – it is not necessary to contact the closest facility for a diversion order. This includes patients who have:
  - a) Respirations < 8 or > 30
  - b) Assisted ventilations
  - c) Airway obstruction
  - d) Intubation
  - e) Unconscious/unresponsive
  - f) Do not follow commands
  - g) Unable to move extremities
  - h) Amputation of extremity
  - i) BP < 90 mmHg with signs/symptoms of shock
  - j) Heart rate > 120 with signs/symptoms of shock
  - k) Uncontrolled bleeding
  - l) No pulse in extremity
  - m) Penetrating injury of the head, neck, chest or abdomen
- If a patient airway cannot be established or CPR is in progress, transport the patient to the closest facility
- Some patients may need care at a trauma center, even if their injuries do not fit the criteria above. Those patients include:
  - a) Pregnancy > 24 weeks gestation
  - b) Geriatric
  - c) Pediatric
  - d) Bariatric
  - e) Special needs
- The goal of IV fluid administration is to maintain a systolic BP of 80-90 mmHg
- For patients with head injuries and a GCS < 8, the goal of IV fluid administration is to maintain a systolic blood pressure of 110 mmHg
- Resuscitation Criteria
  - a) Resuscitation should be withheld or discontinued in cases of:
    - i) Injuries incompatible with life (ie. decapitation)
    - ii) Trauma with evidence of significant time lapse (rigor mortis, dependent lividity, etc.)
  - b) Consider withholding resuscitation (Contact medical control if guidance is needed ) for blunt or penetrating trauma with no breathing, pulse, pupillary response or organized EKG rhythm
  - c) Does not apply to situations involving hypothermia, electrical injuries or submersion injuries



## Warnings/Alerts:

- Do not delay transport to perform non-lifesaving ALS interventions on scene

## OMD Notes:

## References:

- Brady International Trauma Life Support, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Dr. John Emory Campbell, 2008

## Performance Indicators:

Onset of injury	Condition of airway	Patient packaging	Online medical control	Scene time
Treatment and Response to Treatment	Patient disposition	Total Amount of Fluid Given		

## AG31--Trauma

