



Colorado EMS Primary Instructor Training Lesson Guide

Session Title: Signs & Symptoms of Head Injury

Session Reference:

Time Required: 10 minutes

Materials:

References: National D.O.T. E.M.T. Curriculum

Prepared By:

Preparation / Set:

Attention / Motivation:

Injuries to the head are extremely serious and may result in severe permanent disability or death if improperly treated or missed in the assessment.



Objectives:

At the completion of this session, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the signs and symptoms of the patient suffering a head injury.

Session Overview:

- C Signs & symptoms of head injury.
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Instructor Notes	Outline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Signs & Symptoms of Head Injury<ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Altered or decreasing mental status is the best indicator of a brain injury<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Confusion, disorientation, repetitive questioning2. Conscious - deteriorating mental status3. UnresponsiveB. Irregular breathing patternC. Consideration of the mechanism of injury<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Deformity of the windshield2. Deformity of helmetD. Contusions, lacerations, hematomas to scalpE. Deformity to skullF. Blood or cerebrospinal fluid from ears &/or noseG. Bruising around the eyes (raccoon eyes)H. Bruising behind the ears (battle signs over the mastoid process)I. Neurologic disabilityJ. Nausea &/or vomitingK. Unequal pupil size with altered mental statusL. Seizure activityM. Exposed brain tissue if injury is open

Summary:

Review:

C Signs & symptoms of head injury.

Re-motivation:

Evaluation

Written test and/or quizzes.