Health ONE EMS
Emergency Medical Services

Putting It All Together for the Trauma Patient

Multiple Trauma – A patient with more than one serious injury

General Principles

- Practice assessment & care
- Follow priorities of initial assessment
  - Airway
  - Breathing
  - Circulation

- Utilize the "Golden Hour"
- Balance the need of scene interventions with time required to perform them
- For most critical patients, limit scene time to:
  - Airway management
  - Oxygen administration
  - Bleeding control
  - Long board immobilization

- Management of multi-trauma:
  - Scene safety is paramount
  - Assure open airway
  - Perform urgent/emergency moves as necessary
  - Adapt to situation

- Treatment goal:
  - Prompt transport to a facility that will provide definitive care
  - Treating noncritical injuries may result in spending too much time on the scene

Case Review – Motorcycle Crash

- Motorcycle vs. Car
- 25 year old male
- Unresponsive
- Pool of blood
- Gurgling/snoring sounds with respiration
- Suction and oral airway
- BVM assisted ventilations
- Bleeding from angulated left thigh
- Rapid, weak pulse; sweaty skin
- Transport decision
- Rapid trauma assessment
- Injuries to the head, chest, femur
- Immobilization of the body on long board
- Prompt transportation
- Frequent reassessment en route

Review Questions

- What considerations must the EMT-B weigh when considering whether to perform interventions at the scene?
- What are the interventions that should generally be performed for a critical trauma patient at the scene?
- When might it be appropriate for EMT-Bs to bypass a closer hospital for a trauma center?
- What are the three “Ts” of multiple trauma patient management?
- When might it be appropriate not to apply a traction splint in the field to an obviously fractured femur?

Street Scenes

• What is your initial impression of the crash? • What additional resources will be necessary on scene? • Which patient should be transported first? • What is your critical decision regarding the female patient? • What critical interventions should you perform on scene to the female patient? • What further information would you like to obtain about the female patient? • To what type of receiving facility should your patient be transported?	