CHAPTER 13

ASSESSMENT OF THE TRAUMA PATIENT

Handout 13-2: Evaluating Content Mastery       Student’s Name

EVALUATION

CHAPTER 13 QUIZ

Write the letter of the best answer in the space provided.

_____ 1. After the rapid trauma assessment, the more thorough assessment that an EMT performs in the field is the:
   A. detailed physical exam.
   B. primary survey.
   C. focused history and physical exam.
   D. scene survey.

_____ 2. The decision to do a rapid trauma assessment is based on:
   A. information obtained from the SAMPLE history.
   B. the number of patients.
   C. mechanism or injury.
   D. vitals are outside normal limits.

_____ 3. Which of the following would appear in the focused history and physical exam of a medical patient with no signs of trauma or significant mechanism of injury?
   A. Determine responsiveness.
B. Assess history of present illness.

C. Determine chief complaint.

D. Do a detailed examination of all extremities.

4. When performing the rapid trauma assessment, the EMT should examine the patient for wounds, tenderness and:

A. response.  
B. AVPU.  
C. deformities.  
D. severity.

5. In assessing areas of a patient’s body, the two main methods the EMT uses are inspection and:

A. palliation.  
B. presentation.  
C. palpation.  
D. pressure.

6. The medical term for “bruises” is:

A. deformities.  
B. abrasions.  
C. contusions.  
D. lacerations.

7. Among the most common traumatic injuries that an EMT can expect to see are:

A. deformities.  
B. contortions.  
C. abrasions.  
D. avulsions.

8. All of the following would lead an EMT to suspect a cervical spine injury except:

A. bruise on the forehead.  
B. broken collar bone.  
C. abdominal pain.  
D. loss of consciousness.

9. A cervical spine immobilization device should have all of the following
characteristics EXCEPT:

A. stiffness.  C. correct size.
B. softness.  D. rigidity.

10. Internal bleeding may cause:

A. crepitation.  C. distortion.
B. paradoxicality.  D. distention.

11. All of the following would be considered “significant” mechanisms EXCEPT:

A. death of another occupant in a car.
B. fall from a standing position, less than 6 feet.
C. motor-vehicle collision with rollover.
D. ejection of a passenger from motor vehicle.

12. Flat neck veins in a patient who is lying flat indicate:

A. head injury.  C. chest injury.

13. Crepitation refers to the:

A. altering of mental status.
B. sound or feel of broken bones rubbing.
C. loss of vision.
D. presence of uncontrolled shivering.

14. Paradoxical motion is most commonly associated with:

A. chest injury.  C. extremity injury.
15. In a rapid assessment of the body, the areas that an EMT would examine last is(are) the:

A. head.  
B. abdomen.  
C. pelvis.  
D. extremities.

16. In trauma situations, the “S” in SAMPLE history can stand for all of the following EXCEPT:

A. story.  
B. symptoms.  
C. spinal status.  
D. signs.

17. Begin the assessment of infant and child trauma patients at the:

A. head.  
B. fingertips.  
C. toes.  
D. abdomen.

18. The assessment procedure usually performed on seriously injured or ill patients en route to the hospital is the:

A. initial assessment.  
B. detailed physical exam.  
C. SAMPLE history.  
D. rapid trauma assessment.

19. Areas that an EMT will assess in the detailed physical examination that were not assessed during the rapid trauma assessment include the:

A. head and neck.  
B. chest and abdomen.  
C. pelvis and posterior body.  
D. ears, eyes, nose, and mouth.

20. The best way to calm a frightened trauma patient is through:

A. administration of sedation.  
B. constant monitoring.  
C. avoidance of eye contact.  
D. explanation of procedures.
**HANDOUT 13-3: Reinforcing Content Mastery  Student’s Name**

**REINFORCEMENT**

**IN THE FIELD**

*Read the following real-life situation. Then answer the questions that follow.*

You and your partner arrive on the scene of a motor-vehicle collision within minutes of the call. You see the flashing lights of the state troopers’ cars. A fire truck is also in sight. The firefighters have put up scene lights. To the right of the road, you spot a set of tire tracks. An automobile rests on all four wheels in a ditch.

After the fire department stabilizes the vehicle, you approach. Inside the vehicle, you notice a middle-aged man who appears to be sleeping, judging by his snoring. He seems oblivious to all the commotion. You immediately stabilize his head manually and then try to arouse him. The patient awakens quickly, but he seems confused and his speech is slightly slurred. His airway is patent, and his breathing is relaxed and displays no apparent difficulty. His radial pulse is strong and regular at roughly 100 beats per minute. As you work, you notice a strong smell of an alcoholic beverage in the car and on the patient.

Your partner points out the damage on both sides of the car and on the roof. You conclude that the driver rolled his car before it went off the road. You decide to continue manual stabilization of his cervical spine and extricate him from the vehicle onto a long backboard. While you take this care step, you ask one of the EMTs from the fire department to take a set of baseline vital signs. You also request a paramedic intercept through the EMS coordinator.

At this point, you begin to perform the rapid trauma assessment. The assessment reveals no significant injuries to the patient. The vital signs are also within normal limits. In light of his mental status, you choose to move the patient rapidly into the waiting ambulance.
1. What is the mechanism or injury? Would you consider it “significant”?

2. Were the assessments correctly performed? Explain.

3. Considering the injuries presented and the mechanism involved,
   where should this patient have been transported?
CHAPTER 13 REVIEW

Write the word or words that best complete each sentence in the space provided.

1. __________ means “injury,” and injuries can range from slight to severe, from a cut finger to a massive wound.

2. The first step of the focused history and physical exam is to reconsider the __________ __________.

3. The __________ __________ is what the patient tells you is the problem.

4. When you assess areas of the patient’s body, you will evaluate them in two main ways: __________ and __________.

5. When examining a patient, you are looking for __________, __________ and __________.

6. The medical term for bruising is __________.

7. Cut, open wounds that sometimes cause significant blood loss are known as __________.

8. Make sure the cervical collar is the right __________ for the patient.

9. The primary assessment is also known as the __________ __________.

10. The assessment step called for in a patient with a significant mechanism of injury is the __________ __________ __________.

11. The sound or feel of bones rubbing against each other is known as __________.

12. A(n) __________ is a permanent surgical opening in the neck through which a patient breathes.

13. __________ __________ can be a sign of a condition known as “flail chest.”

14. In trauma situations, it is good to think of the “S” in SAMPLE as standing for not just
“signs and symptoms” but also for ____________.

15. Assess all four extremities for ____________ ____________, ____________ ____________, and sensation.

16. En route to the hospital, you may have time to do a more complete patient assessment known as the ____________ ____________ ____________.

17. Bruising behind a patient’s ears is called ____________ ____________.

18. In conducting a detailed physical exam of the ears, you are looking for ____________ or ____________ ____________ ____________ ____________.

19. The final step of the detailed physical exam is to reassess the ____________ ____________.

20. A detailed physical exam does not take place before transport unless ____________ ____________ ____________.
HANDOUT 13-5: Reinforcing Content Mastery  Student’s Name

TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT LISTING

*Complete the following lists.*

1. List the five steps for the focused history and physical exam of a trauma patient with no significant mechanism of injury.

2. List nine significant mechanisms or injuries for adults.

3. List three additional significant mechanisms of injury for a child.
4. List the eight things to look for when assessing for wounds, tenderness and deformities to areas of a patient’s body.
TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT MATCHING

Write the letter of the term in the space next to the appropriate description.

A. battle’s sign
B. crepitation
C. detailed physical examination
D. distention
E. focused history and physical exam
F. jugular vein distention
G. paradoxical motion
H. priapism
I. rapid trauma assessment
J. stoma

___ 1. quick physical assessment of the major areas of the body to detect injury
___ 2. permanent surgical opening in the neck that the patient breathes through
___ 3. bruising behind the patient’s ears
___ 4. assessment that involves using SAMPLE to gather information
___ 5. methodical physical examination of the patient done en route to the hospital
___ 6. bulging neck veins, normally seen in a patient lying flat
___ 7. persistent erection of the penis, often resulting from spinal injury
___ 8. grating sound or feeling of broken bones rubbing together
___ 9. condition of being stretched, bloated, inflated, or larger than normal
10. movement of part of the chest in the opposite direction of the rest of the chest when breathing