CHAPTER 4
Assessing the Victim
(Video – Assessing the victim and recovery position)
Assess the Victim

- Check scene for safety
- Initial assessment for life-threatening conditions
  - Unresponsiveness
  - Lack of normal breathing
  - Severe bleeding
- Secondary assessment
- Monitor the victim for any changes
Initial Assessment

• Check for life-threatening conditions:
  • Unresponsiveness
  • Lack of normal breathing
  • Severe bleeding
Chapter 4 • Assessing the Victim

Initial Assessment continued

• Takes just a few seconds
• Do not move victim unless:
  • Imminent danger to victim
  • Cannot give life-saving care because of victim’s location or position
Check for Responsiveness

- A victim who is speaking, coughing or moving is responsive.
Check for Responsiveness continued

- Tap person on shoulder and shout “Are you OK?”:
  - A person who is speaking, coughing or moving is responsive.
  - A person who may be paralyzed may have purposeful eye movements or other signs.
- Check the person first in the position found.
- Use the AVPU scale. (Alert, Verbal, Pain, Unresponsive)
Unresponsiveness

- A sign of a life-threatening problem
- Call 9-1-1 immediately
- At same time look for normal breathing
Check for Normal Breathing

- A victim who can speak or cough is breathing.
- Gasping is not normal breathing.
- Check victim first in position found.
Breathing Normally?

- If victim is breathing normally, continue assessment.
- If unresponsive victim is not breathing normally, start CPR.
- A person whose heart has stopped beating will also have stopped breathing.
Check for Severe Bleeding

- Severe bleeding is life-threatening.
- Control with direct pressure.
Provide Care

Care for life-threatening conditions found:

• Immediately care for any threats to life found during the initial assessment.

• Move on to secondary assessment only if no life-threatening conditions.

• Position breathing unresponsive person in recovery position.
Recovery Position

- Helps keep airway open
- Allows fluid to drain from mouth
- Prevents aspiration
- Continue to monitor breathing

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CHAPTER 4
Skill: Recovery Position
Skill: Recovery Position

1. Position the victim’s arm farthest from you across the victim’s body.
2. Grasp the victim at the shoulder and hips, and roll them toward you.
3. Bend both legs so the victim’s position is stabilized.
Skill: Recovery Position continued

4. With victim now in position, check the airway and open the mouth to allow drainage.
Secondary Assessment

- Performed only for victims without life-threatening conditions
- Do not interrupt care for serious problem
- Can provide additional information
- Performed on responsive victims
- Includes history and physical examination
- Focused primarily on injured area
Get the Victim’s History

- Talk to a responsive victim.
- Ask bystanders or family members what happened.
- Consider the mechanism of injury.
SAMPLE History

S  Signs and symptoms
A  Allergies (Epi-Pen)
M  Medications (Inhaler)
P  Previous problems
L  Last food or drink
E  Events
Chapter 4 • Assessing the Victim

Unresponsive Victim

• Ask family or bystanders what happened.
• Check the scene for clues.
• Consider effects of environmental extremes.
• Consider victim’s age.
Physical Examination \textit{continued}

- Examine a responsive victim from head to toe for:
  - Bleeding or other open wounds
  - Pain, tenderness when victim is touched
  - Swelling or deformity
  - Skin color, temperature, condition
  - Abnormal sensation or movement
Physical Examination continued

- Ask a responsive victim for the consent to do a physical examination (head-to-toe check) and describe what you are going to do before touching him/her.
Position of Victim

- Keep unresponsive victim without possible spinal injury in recovery position.
- Monitor victim’s breathing, and observe for bleeding and other signs of serious injury.
- Allow responsive victim to remain in position of comfort.
- No need to move victim onto his or her back.
CHAPTER 4

Skill: Physical Examination

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Skill: Physical Examination

Check head and neck:

- Skull
- Eyes
- Ears
- Nose
- Breathing
- Mouth
- Neck
Skill: Physical Examination continued

Check chest:

- Deformity?
- Wounds?
- Tenderness?
- Bleeding?
- Even breathing?
Check abdomen:

- Pain/tenderness?
- Swelling?
- Bleeding/bruising?
- Rigidity?
Skill: Physical Examination continued

Check hips and pelvis:

- Pain?
- Deformity?
Check upper extremities:

- Bleeding? Deformity? Pain?
- Medical alert ID?
- Normal movement, sensation, temperature?
Skill: Physical Examination continued

Check lower extremities:

- Bleeding? Deformity? Pain?
- Normal movement, sensation, temperature?
Examining a Child or Infant

- Use simple questions.
- Involve parents or guardians.
- Perform physical examination toe to head.
- Talk calmly and soothingly.