



Chapter 16

Care of Patients Experiencing
Urgent Alterations in Health

- Lesson 16.1
(Slide 1 of 2)
1. List the priorities of assessment to be performed in a situation in which first aid is necessary.
 2. Discuss moral, legal, and physical interventions/implications involved in performing first aid.
 3. List the reasons for performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
 4. List the steps in performing one-rescuer and two-rescuer CPR on an adult, child, and infant victim.

Lesson 16.1

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5. Identify the steps in performing the abdominal thrusts on conscious and unconscious victims and pregnant victims.
6. Discuss management of airway obstruction in a child and an infant.
7. Discuss the signs and symptoms of shock and interventions to treat shock.
8. Discuss three methods of controlling bleeding.

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Assessment of the Emergency Situation

- Primary assessment
 - > Airway
 - > Breathing
 - > Circulation (pulse and severe bleeding)
- Life-threatening situations
- Arrested or abnormal breathing or pulse
- Fractures, dislocations, and superficial ecchymoses or wounds require attention after the more serious conditions are treated

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Obtaining Medical Emergency Aid

- The nurse's ability to recognize the need for medical assistance and knowledge of how to obtain medical emergency aid can mean the difference between life and death to an injured or ill person
- Health care providers must be prepared to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if needed until emergency medical assistance arrives

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Moral and Legal Responsibilities of the Nurse

- Good Samaritan laws
 - Enacted in most states to protect health professionals from legal liability when providing emergency first aid
 - Follow a reasonable and prudent course of action
 - Victim must give verbal permission
 - The law assumes that an unconscious person would give consent if he or she were able
 - Once first aid is initiated, the nurse has the moral and legal obligation to continue the aid until the victim can be cared for by someone with comparable or better training

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Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

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- Ethical implications
- Events necessitating CPR
 - CPR is indicated in any syndrome where respiration or circulation are absent
 - Two purposes of CPR
 - To keep the lungs supplied with oxygen when breathing has stopped
 - To keep the blood circulating and carrying oxygen to the brain, heart, and other parts of the body
 - Clinical death
 - Biologic death
 - Brain death

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Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

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- Initial assessment and response
- The CABs of CPR
- Health care providers and lay persons establish unresponsiveness, activate the EMS, and retrieve the AED

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One-Rescuer vs. Two-Rescuer CPR

- Steps for adult one-rescuer CPR
 - > Determine unresponsiveness
 - > Determine breathlessness
 - > Call for help
 - > Activate the EMS system
 - > CABs of CPR
- Adult two-rescuer CPR
 - > If EMS not activated – direct second rescuer to activate EMS
 - > The ventilator – person at victim's head
 - > Compressor – person at victim's chest

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Pediatric CPR

- The basic steps of CPR and foreign body airway obstruction management are the same whether the victim is an infant, a child, or an adult
 - > Position victim on firm, flat surface
 - > May have to carry small child/infant while performing CPR
- For the purpose of life support
 - > Infant: younger than 1 year
 - > Child: between the ages of 1 year to puberty

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Abdominal Thrusts

- Foreign body airway obstruction
 - > Conscious victim
 - > Unconscious victim
 - > Pregnant victim
 - > Infant or child

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**Foreign Body Airway
Obstruction Management**

- Food is the most common cause of choking or airway obstruction in the adult
- Foreign objects are the most common cause of airway obstruction in children
- If the air exchange is good and the victim is able to cough forcibly, *do not interfere*
- The victim should be monitored closely, because he or she may regress to a state of poor exchange

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Shock

- Shock is an abnormal condition of inadequate blood flow to the body's peripheral tissues, with life-threatening cellular dysfunction, hypotension, and oliguria
- It results from failure of the cardiovascular system to provide sufficient blood circulation to the body's tissues and decreased metabolic waste removal
- To maintain circulatory homeostasis, there must be a functioning heart to circulate blood and a sufficient volume of blood

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Classification of Shock

- Classified according to cause
 - Severe blood loss
 - Intense pain
 - Extensive trauma; burns
 - Poisons
 - Emotional stress or intense emotions
 - Extremes of heat and cold
 - Electrical shock
 - Allergic reactions
 - Sudden or severe illness

Bleeding and Hemorrhage

- Effects of blood loss
 - > Blood loss from internal or external bleeding causes a decrease in oxygen supply to the body
 - > Blood pressure drops
 - > Heart pumps faster to compensate for the decreased volume and blood pressure
 - > The body will attempt to clot the blood to halt bleeding, usually requiring 6-7 minutes
 - > Uncontrolled bleeding can result in shock and death

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Types of Bleeding

- Capillary
- Venous
- Arterial
- Epistaxis
- Internal bleeding



Controlling Bleeding

- Direct pressure
- Raising the bleeding part of the body above the level of the heart
- Indirect pressure
 - > Application of a tourniquet

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Lesson 16.2
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9. Discuss the five general types of open wounds: abrasions, incisions, lacerations, punctures, and avulsions.
10. Discuss treatment of wounds.
11. Discuss methods of treating four common types of poisonings.
12. Describe the nursing interventions used when treating heat and cold emergencies.

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Lesson 16.2
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13. List characteristics and first aid treatment of bone, joint, and muscle injuries.
14. Discuss emergency care for spinal cord injuries.
15. Define the classifications of burns and list nursing interventions used in the first aid treatment of burns.

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Wounds and Trauma

- Closed wounds
 - > The underlying tissue of the body is involved; the top layer of skin is not broken
 - > Ecchymoses (bruises) and contusions occur
- Open wounds
 - > Openings or breaks in the mucous membrane or skin
 - > Abrasions
 - > Puncture wounds
 - > Incisions
 - > Lacerations
 - > Avulsions
 - > Chest injuries

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Treatment of Wounds

- Dressings and bandages
 - General principles of bandaging
- Application of common types of bandages
 - Bandage compress
 - Triangular bandage
 - Roller bandage

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Poisons

- General assessment of poisonings
 - Signs and symptoms may be delayed for hours
- Ingested poisons
- Inhaled poisons
- Absorbed poisons
- Injected poisons

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Drug and Alcohol Emergencies

- Alcohol
 - Mild intoxication signs and symptoms
 - Serious intoxication signs and symptoms
- Drugs
 - Signs and symptoms

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Heat and Cold Emergencies

- Heat injury
 - Heat exhaustion
 - Heatstroke
- Exposure to excessive cold
 - Hypothermia
 - Frostbite

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Bone, Joint, and Muscle Injuries

- Fractures
 - A break in the continuity of a bone
 - Types of common fractures
- Dislocations
 - Occurs in joints; usually results from a blow or fall
- Strains and sprains
 - Strains are injuries to muscle tissue from stretching and tearing due to overexertion

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Spinal Cord Injuries

- Assessment
 - Assess for paralysis
 - Test for sensation
 - Assess for abrasions and ecchymoses on the back
- Nursing interventions
 - Take spinal cord precautions
 - Maintain airway; keep head in a neutral position

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Burn Injuries

- Shallow partial-thickness burns
- Deep partial-thickness burns
- Full-thickness burns
- Deep partial-thickness burns and full-thickness burns

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