

## Emergency First Responder

### Primary Survey



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## Objectives

By the end of this session you should be able to:

- Outline and demonstrate elements of a primary survey for the medical and trauma patient while initiating interventions essential to maintain life



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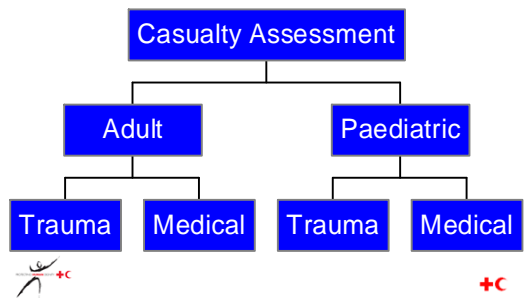
## Scene Size-up

- Review available information
- Maintain body substance isolation
- Maintain scene safety - identify common hazards
- Determine number of casualties
- Determine the nature of illness or the mechanism of injury
- Determine need for additional resources
- Consider C-Spine



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## Patient Assessment



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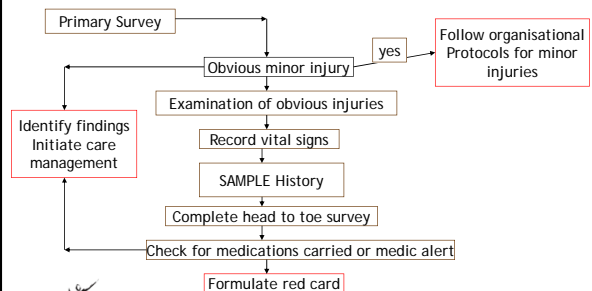
## Primary Survey

- Turn to the primary survey page in the clinical practice guidelines



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## Patient Assessment



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## Mechanism of Injury

- The combined forces that caused the injury
- Speed is a key determinant of the force applied
- Provides clues to the possible injury patterns
- Determined from
  - Observation of the scene
  - The Patient
  - Family and bystanders



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## Aim of an Initial Assessment

- Aim is to detect and correct life threatening conditions
  - Control life threatening haemorrhage
  - Airway
  - c - Spine
  - Breathing
  - Circulation
  - Disability
  - Exposure



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## Initial Assessment

- Form a general impression of the Patient
- WHY ?
- Assess responsiveness
- Determine Chief Complaint
- Identify need for additional help



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## Assess Responsiveness

- AVPU Scale
  - Alert
  - Verbal
  - Pain
  - Unresponsive

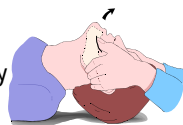


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## Airway Assessment

- Open the airway
  - Consider C-spine
- Inspect the mouth
- Consider suction
- Insert oropharyngeal airway



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## Breathing Assessment

- Check breathing
  - Rate
  - Depth
  - Difficulty
- Is it adequate?
  - Consider ventilations
- Consider Oxygen



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## Circulation Assessment

- Check carotid or radial pulse
- Check capillary refill
- Check for external bleeding
- Check skin colour, condition and temperature

- Pale - decreased circulation
- Flushed - excess circulation
- Yellow - liver problems



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## Skin

- Check the skin temperature  
Hot - Cool - Cold
- Check skin condition  
Dry - Clammy
- Check capillary refill on the sides of the thumb at the level of the nail
- Should be less than 2 to 3 seconds

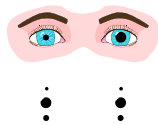


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## Disability Assessment

- Refers to Neurological Deficit
- Check level of responsiveness
  - A.V.P.U.
- Check pupil size and reactivity to light
  - PEARL



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## Expose & Examine

- Importance of Consent
- Expose and Examine the Patient - as required, then cover (Thoracic Area)
- Deal with injuries as appropriate
  - Life threats only at this stage



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## Further Assessment

*Begin the further assessment (secondary survey) only if all life threatening conditions have been treated and the casualty's condition allows it*

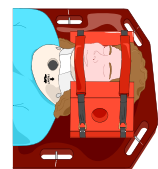


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## Rapid Assessment

- Rapid Head to Toe
  - SAMPLE History
  - All major body parts
- Baseline Vital Signs
- Administer Oxygen
- Other essential interventions
- Arrange for full immobilisation if trauma



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## Further Assessment

Focused History  
& Physical Examination  
SAMPLE  
OPQRST

Detailed Physical  
Examination  
(Head to toe)



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## Multiple Patient Situations

- Triage - Patient sorting
- Principle
  - Do as little as possible
  - Keep what is done simple
  - Do it quickly for as many as possible
- Dynamic process
  - Priorities may change
- Use a colour coding system in major incidents



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## Summary

- Approach to Patient assessment
  - Perform Scene size-up
  - Perform Initial assessment
    - C.A.c.B.C.D.E.
    - AVPU
  - Multiple Patients



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