

PRIMARY SURVEY

Structured assessment in trauma

C

Catastrophic haemorrhage

Rapidly assess, control haemorrhage

Immediate management: Application of direct pressure, consider tourniquet application, do not remove penetrating foreign objects, initiate large bore IV access and rapid fluid resuscitation.

Life threats: Exsanguinating external haemorrhage, blunt/penetrating thoracic and/or abdominal injury.

A

Airway/C-spine

Rapidly assess, maintain or secure airway and C-spine

Life threats: Airway obstruction, blunt/penetrating neck injury.

B

Breathing/ventilation

Rapidly assess, support ventilation/oxygenation

Life threats: Tension pneumothorax, massive haemothorax, open pneumothorax, flail chest, ruptured diaphragm.

C

Circulation with haemorrhage control

Rapidly control, assess and support haemodynamics

Life threats: Exsanguinating external haemorrhage, cardiac tamponade, penetrating cardiac injury.

D

Disability

Rapidly assess and protect neurological status

Life threats: Catastrophic cerebral haemorrhage.

E

Exposure

Expose patient, assess for further injuries, maintain normothermia