

Trauma Patient Assessment Rules

Paul A. Werfel, MS, NREMT-P

Director, Paramedic Program

Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Science

Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine

School of Health Technology & Management

Department of Emergency Medicine

Stony Brook University, New York



***For copies of this or any of my
presentations here, email me
at:***

paul.werfel@stonybrook.edu

*“Some people
hurt themselves
bad enough to
die”*

Anonymous Trauma Surgeon





TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- HYPOTENSION IS A LATE SIGN OF SHOCK



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- ADULTS CANNOT BECOME HYPOTENSIVE EXCLUSIVELY DUE TO CLOSED HEAD TRAUMA



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- SHORT BOARDS, KEDs AND HARE TRACTION SPLINTS WORK WELL FOR STABLE TRAUMA VICTIMS--NOT FOR UNSTABLE ONES
- SAGER SPLINTS CAN BE PLACED VERY QUICKLY



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- THE MULTI-TRAUMA PATIENT WITH HEAD TRAUMA AND SHOCK NEEDS TO BE TREATED LIKE ANY OTHER MULTI-TRAUMA VICTIM



*“In life, it’s
always later
than you
think”*

2/3

**Of all 65-year-old
people who have
ever lived...**



**...ARE
ALIVE
TODAY.**

TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- GERIATRIC PATIENTS MAY NEVER EXHIBIT TACHYCARDIA, PALLOR OR HYPOTENSION FROM BLOOD LOSS



“You will learn the language of EMS and the names of many disease entities”

- *“The baby has screaming meemee Jesus”*
- *“I have pileups in my Eucharist”*
- *“I am afraid that she has old-timers disease”*
- *“My wife is taking Latex”*
- *“My wife is not an epileptic, she is catholic”*
- *I have very close veins”*
- *“I have a ferocious liver”*

TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

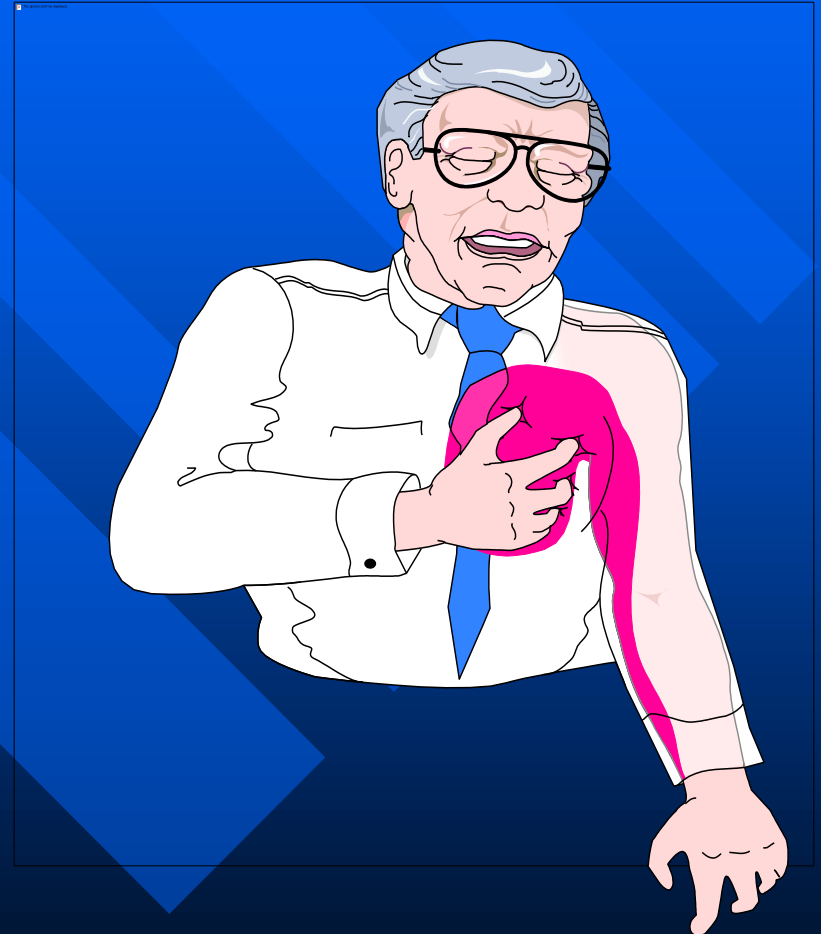
■ FALL OR DRUNK?



THE 4 STAGES OF LIFE

TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

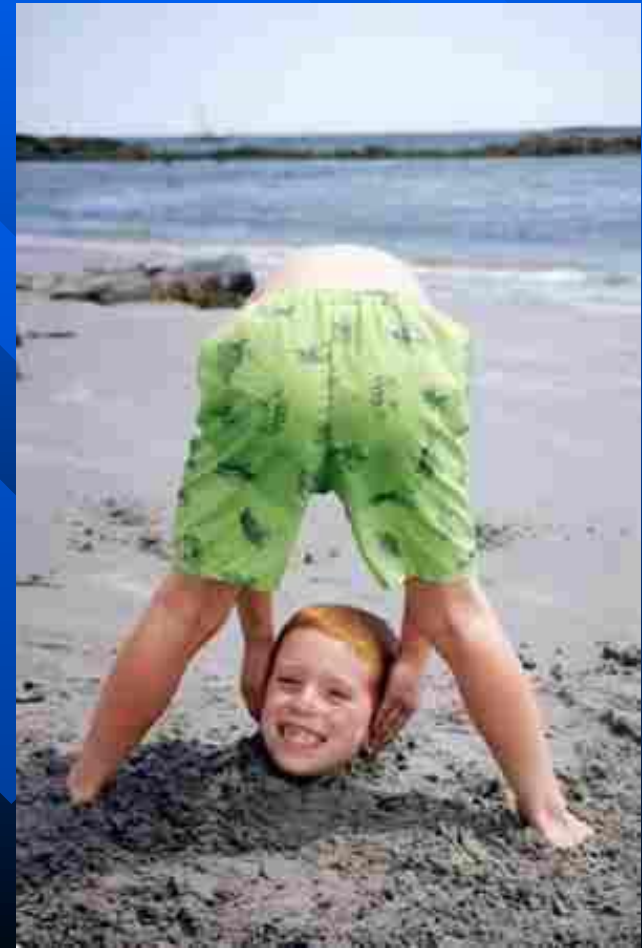
- THE ELDERLY CAN HAVE CATASTROPHIC ABDOMINAL TRAUMA WITH LITTLE OR NO PAIN



Language of EMS-It's not always the patients

- *“Patient has a burning sensation in his penis, which goes to his feet”*
- *“The patient must have internal injuries, because there were no outernal ones”*
- *“I started an ivy on the patient”*
- *“3 liters of nasal oxygen by mask”*
- *“Patient pregnant, having benson and hedges contractions”*
- *“Briggs and Stratton contractions”*
- *“The patient has Cozumel's breathing”*

“The two things that children wear out are clothes and parents”







TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- CHILDREN ARE NOT ADULTS THAT HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE DRYER TOO LONG



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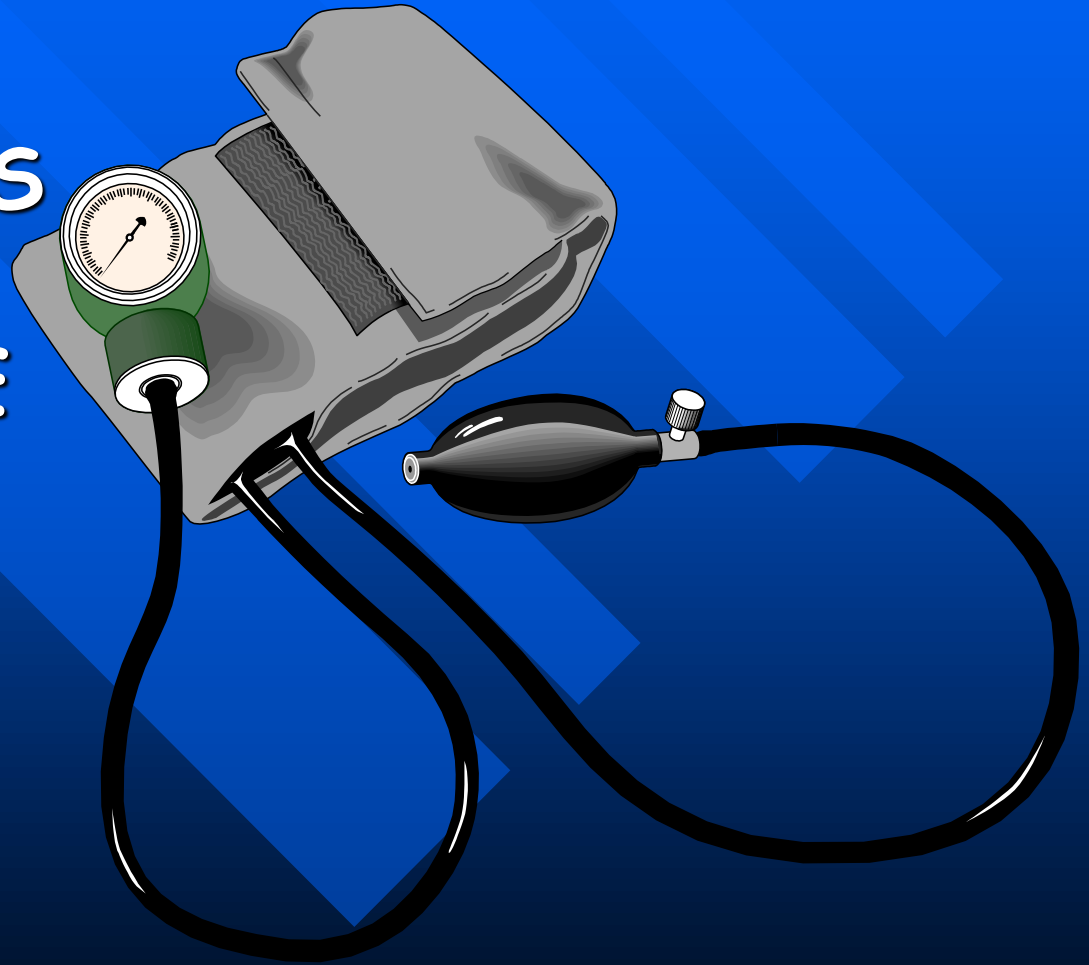
TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- CRYING,
SCREAMING
CHILDREN
ARE
USUALLY
STABLE



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- BLOOD PRESSURE IS AN UNRELIABLE SIGN OF PEDIATRIC SHOCK



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- LETHARGY AND MINIMAL RESPONSE TO PAINFUL STIMULI IN CHILDREN IS AN OMINOUS FINDING



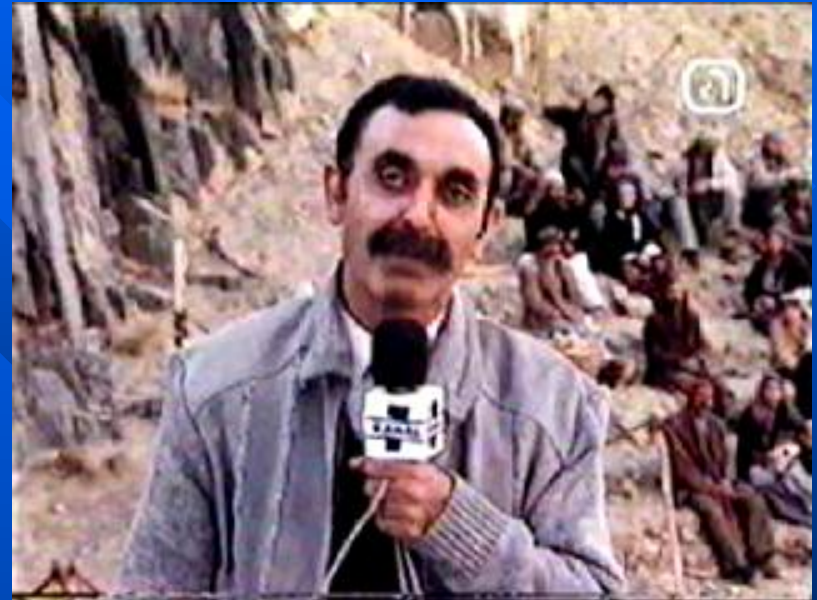
TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- In EMS, it is the mechanism, not the injury that we are treating



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- If the news media gets footage of you treating a trauma patient that is not trapped, you have been on scene too long...



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- Don't miss things because they are not obvious



TRAUMA PATIENT ASSESSMENT

- Patients with unexplained hypotension frequently have abdominal bleeds



CONCLUSIONS

- Keep yourself out of trouble
- "Be careful: The toes you step on today may be connected to the butt you'll be kissing tomorrow."
- Stay up to date
- Role of experience:
 - "So, I see that you have 20 years of EMS experience, is that really 20 years or 1 year of experience that you repeated 20 times?"



Questions?



THANK YOU