

BLS TRAUMA EMERGENCIES

t-3 HEAD and SPINAL TRAUMA

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Identify airway compromise/obstruction, respiratory insufficiency/arrest, active bleeding, shock, altered mental status and initiate appropriate management
- Assure an advanced life support response

HEAD TRAUMA

1. Manage airway using the appropriate adjunct. If spinal injury is suspected use the jaw-thrust technique.
2. Support ventilation.
3. Perform Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) as defined in Solano County EMS Policy 6611.
4. CONSIDERATIONS
 - Control face and head bleeding with direct pressure. Utilize extreme caution with potential skull fractures.
 - Check the oropharynx for teeth and dentures.
 - Frequent airway suctioning is needed to prevent aspiration of blood, etc.
 - Avoid applying direct pressure to an injured eye. Do not attempt to replace the partially torn globe – stabilize it in place with a saline soaked gauze.
 - DO NOT assume alcohol intoxication as primary cause. All persons with altered level of consciousness associated with trauma require treatment and transport to a medical facility where the patient can receive a complete medical examination.

SPINAL TRAUMA

For treatment of spinal trauma, please refer to Solano County EMS Policy 6611, Spinal Motion restriction, for SMR procedures.