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Cardiac Emergencies
Scans

- Managing Chest Pain
- Nitroglycerin
- Aspirin
- Assessing and Managing a Cardiac Arrest Patient
Managing Chest Pain
(1) Perform the primary assessment.
(2) Provide high-concentration oxygen by nonrebreather mask. Perform the history and physical exam for a medical patient. Document the findings.
(3) If the patient meets nitroglycerin criteria and has prescribed nitroglycerin, ask him about the last dose taken.
(4) Check the five rights: right patient, right time, right drug, right dose, and right route. Check the expiration date. Follow local protocols and consult medical direction before assisting the patient with taking medication.
(5) Remove the oxygen mask. Ask the patient to open his mouth and lift his tongue.
(6a) Place the nitroglycerin tablet under the tongue, or . . .
(6b) If the nitroglycerin is in spray form, spray the medication under the tongue according to label directions.
(7) Have the patient close his mouth and hold the nitroglycerin under his tongue, where the medication will be quickly absorbed. Replace the oxygen mask.
(8) Reassess the patient, and document the findings.
Nitroglycerin
Aspirin
Assessing and Managing a Cardiac Arrest Patient
(1) If the patient appears lifeless, do a quick scan for breathing. Obtain a quick history of events from family or bystanders.
(2) Verify the absence of a spontaneous pulse. Check for no longer than 10 seconds.
(3) Provide CPR while another EMT sets up the AED.
(4) Turn on the AED power.
(5) Apply pads to the patient's chest. Remove the backing. Place one pad on the upper right chest, one on the lower left ribs.
(6) Say “Clear!” Ensure that all individuals are clear of the patient.
(7) Press “analyze” if the AED has that button. Remain clear of the patient while the AED analyzes.
(8) If advised by the AED, press the button to deliver a shock. Immediately perform compressions.
(9) Perform CPR for 2 minutes (5 cycles), unless the patient wakes up, moves, or begins to breathe. Follow AED prompts.
(10) Gather additional information on the arrest events.
(11) Check the patient's pulse during CPR to confirm the effectiveness of compressions.
(12) Direct insertion of the airway adjunct.
(13) Direct ventilation of the patient with high-concentration oxygen.
(14) After 2 minutes of CPR, have all individuals stand clear and reanalyze with the AED.
(15) Check the patient's carotid pulse (maximum 10 seconds).
(16) If there is a spontaneous pulse, check the patient's breathing. Note that in many cases, even when a pulse has returned, the patient will require ventilatory assistance.
(17) If breathing is adequate, provide high-concentration oxygen by nonrebreather mask. If breathing is inadequate, ventilate the patient with high-concentration oxygen. Transport without delay.