Diabetic Emergencies and Altered Mental Status
Scans

- Management of a Diabetic Emergency
- Oral Glucose
- Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale
Management of a Diabetic Emergency
(1) Perform a primary assessment. Determine if the patient's mental status is altered.
(2) Perform a secondary assessment and take the patient's vital signs. Be sure to find out if she has a history of diabetes. Observe for a medical identification device. If your protocols allow, check the patient's blood glucose level.
(3) If the patient has a history of diabetes, has an altered mental status, and is alert enough to swallow, prepare to administer oral glucose.
(4) Assist the patient in accepting oral glucose.
(5) Reassess the patient.
Oral Glucose
Oral Glucose

Glutose

CONCENTRATED SUGAR FOR TREATING INSULIN REACTIONS

ONE DOSE
25 GRAMS (Delivers 40 Grams of Glucose)

ORAL GLUCOSE GEL
Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale
(1) Assess for facial droop. The face of a stroke patient often has an abnormal drooped appearance on one side.
(2a) Assess for arm drift by asking the patient to close her eyes and extend her arms for 10 seconds. A patient who has not suffered a stroke can usually hold her arms in an extended position with eyes closed.
(2b) Assess for arm drift by asking the patient to close her eyes and extend her arms for 10 seconds. A stroke patient will often display arm drift. That is, one arm will remain extended but the arm on the affected side will drift downward.
(3) Assess for speech difficulties. A stroke patient will often have slurred speech, use the wrong words, or be unable to speak at all.