Allergic Reaction
Scans

• **Assessing and Managing an Allergic Reaction**
• **Epinephrine Auto-Injector**
Assessing and Managing an Allergic Reaction
If a patient suffers a severe allergic reaction:
(1) Perform a primary assessment. Provide high-concentration oxygen by nonrebreather mask.
(2) Perform a secondary assessment. Obtain a SAMPLE history.
(3) Take the patient's vital signs.
(4) Find out if the patient has a prescribed epinephrine auto-injector and if it is prescribed for this patient or ensure that your protocols allow administering an epinephrine auto-injector you carry on the ambulance. Then check the expiration date and check for cloudiness or discoloration if liquid is visible. Contact medical direction.
(5) If medical direction orders use of the epinephrine auto-injector, prepare it for use by removing the safety cap. (Photo shows the EpiPen®.)
(6) Press the injector against the patient's thigh to trigger release of the spring-loaded needle and inject the dose of epinephrine into the patient.
(7) Dispose of the used single-dose injector in a portable biohazard container.
(8) If using the Twinject®, follow the manufacturer's directions to remove color-coded caps and administer the first dose. Save the device and transport it with the patient in case the second dose it contains is needed later.
(9) Document the patient's response to the medication.
(10) Perform a reassessment, paying special attention to the patient's ABCs and vital signs en route to the hospital.
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