

SECTION V
SHOCK

SHOCK IS COMMON WITH MANY INJURIES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SEVERITY. THE FIRST HOUR AFTER AN INJURY IS MOST IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT IS DURING THIS PERIOD THAT SYMPTOMS OF SHOCK APPEAR. IF SHOCK IS NOT TREATED, IT CAN PROGRESS TO CAUSE DEATH!

SHOCK IS FAILURE OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM TO KEEP ADEQUATE BLOOD CIRCULATING TO THE VITAL ORGANS OF THE BODY, NAMELY THE HEART, LUNGS AND BRAIN.

ANY TYPE OF INJURY CAN CAUSE SHOCK.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SHOCK INCLUDE: CONFUSED BEHAVIOR, VERY FAST OR VERY SLOW PULSE RATE, VERY FAST OR VERY SLOW BREATHING, TREMBLING AND WEAKNESS IN THE ARMS OR LEGS, COOL AND MOIST SKIN, PALE OR BLUISH SKIN, LIPS AND FINGERNAILS AND ENLARGED PUPILS.

TREATMENT FOR SHOCK:

A GOOD RULE TO FOLLOW IS TO ANTICIPATE THAT SHOCK WILL FOLLOW AN INJURY AND TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT IT BEFORE IT HAPPENS!

Putting a victim in a lying-down position improves circulation. If the victim is not suspected of having head or neck injuries, or leg fractures, elevate the legs. If you suspect head or neck injuries, keep the victim lying flat. If the victim vomits, turn on their side. If victim is experiencing trouble breathing, place them in a semi-reclining position. Maintain the victim's body temperature, but do not overheat.

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