

## N202 Unit VI Part 2

### Class Preparation Assignment - Trauma Case Study

#### Patient Profile:

J.B. is a 78-year-old male who was found by his neighbor laying on the ground in his garden. It is unknown how long he has been lying there. It appears he has fallen off the roof while fixing the shingles on his house. His left femur is protruding through the skin. The paramedics report that he was found in a large pool of blood. Additional visible wounds include scattered bruising to head and abdomen.

#### Subjective Data:

- N/A - unresponsive, no family at bedside

#### Objective Data:

- Unresponsive
- BP 60/42, HR 168, RR 14, SpO2 88% on RA, Temperature 94.7 F
- Left femur protruding through skin
- Scattered bruising to abdomen and head
- Scattered abrasions

#### Questions:

1. What potentially life-threatening injuries does J.B. have? Why did you come to this conclusion?

- Left femur protruding through skin
- Scattered bruising on abdomen and head
- BP 60/42
- HR 168
- SpO2 88% on RA
- T 94.7F
- Found in large pool of blood
- Unresponsive

I came to this conclusion because all of these things can be considered life threatening and can kill the patient if they are not treated properly and within a timely fashion. Each of these injuries can lead to further injuries and eventually death if not treated correctly.

2. What is the priority of care for this patient?

- Increase his SpO2 (ventilation if needed)
- Increase his temperature
- Cover femur until trauma surgeon or physician is at bedside
- Provide fluids and pressors to increase BP
- CT of head and abdomen
- Assessment of abrasions including size, site, and characteristics
- Cardiac monitoring

3. What diagnostic studies (images & labs) do you anticipate being ordered for this client?
  - CT of head
  - CT of abdomen
  - XRAY
  - EKG
  - CBC
  - CMP
  - Type & screen (if have time)
  - PTT
  - UDA
  - ETOH levels
4. Once the client is initially stabilized, the nurse begins to consider additional injuries. What other potential complications/syndromes/injuries may this client be experiencing?
  - Compartment Syndrome
  - Brain Bleed from hitting head
  - Internal bleeding due to bruising on abdomen
  - Hypothermia
5. For the identified injury/illness above, what clinical manifestations should the nurse assess for?
  - Compartment syndrome (pain out of proportion, edema, altered sensation, absent pulse, pallor)
  - Brain bleed (headache, one side weakness, vomiting, seizures, decreased LOC, IICP, disturbed vision)
  - Internal bleeding (bruising, pain, decreased h&h)
  - Hypothermia (shivering, low temperature, memory loss, weak pulse, LOC)
6. What treatment measures and nursing interventions does the nurse anticipate for this client?
  - Fluids
  - Pressors
  - Fasciotomy likely if compartment syndrome is indicated
  - Bear Hugger
  - Warm/multiple blankets
  - Ventilator
  - Cardiac monitoring
  - Stabilize bleeding
  - Wound care on abrasions