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?
   Hypovolemic shock due to uncontrolled prolonged bleeding, possible spinal cord injury due to the possible fall from the roof.
2. What is the priority of care for this patient?
   Control bleeding, maintain airway and establish IV access, replace volume loss with crystalloid fluids and blood transfusion.
3. What diagnostic studies (images & labs) do you anticipate being ordered for this client?
   X-ray, CT, MRI, CBC, BMP, ABG.
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?
   Spinal cord injuries leading to paralysis, internal bleeding to brain and other organs, infection/sepsis.
5. For the identified injury/illness above, what clinical manifestations should the nurse assess for?
   Tachycardia, hypotension, cool extremities, pale skin, mental status changes, paralysis, pain.
6. What treatment measures and nursing interventions does the nurse anticipate for this client?
7. **Maintain alignment with c-collar and HOB flat and logrolling, assess LOC, frequent VS, skin color and temperature.**