

Chest trauma thinking exercise #1

A 56-year-old woman lost control of her car and hit a tree. When paramedics arrived, the patient was difficult to arouse and could not follow commands. The paramedics applied a cervical collar, inserted and endotracheal tube, stabilized an open fracture on her forearm, and transported her to the local critical access hospital. The emergency department (ED) triage assessment yielded the following:

- Unable to answer questions or follow commands
- Responds to painful stimuli
- Multiple small lacerations on her forehead
- Mucous membranes pink and moist
- Bilateral chest bruising
- Breath sounds in all lung fields
- S1/S2 present
- Abdominal bruising
- Hypoactive bowel sounds x 4
- Pulses present in all four extremities
- Capillary refill = 3 seconds

Vital signs

Temperature – 99.2 F Heart rate – 110 beats per minute Respirations – 16 breaths per minute Blood pressure – 96/65 mm Hg Oxygen saturation – 92% (on manual bag-valve and 100% Fio2)

High light or place a check mark next to the assessment findings that require follow-up by the nurse

Rationales: Please document your rationales here.