ABDOMINAL INJURY

ABDOMINAL PAIN

Abdominal pain can be a sign of a vast range of ailments, both major and minor. In fact anything ranging from internal haemorrhage to flatulence. Any persistent abdominal pain must be assessed by a medical practitioner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREATMENT OF ABDOMINAL PAIN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Examine and continuously assess casualties perfusion status</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Arrange for casualty to see medical practitioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Place pillow under casualties knee and sit them up a little</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Give nothing to eat or drink and reassure casualty</td>
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ABDOMINAL WOUNDS AND EVISCERATION

Any puncture wound to the abdomen is a serious injury until the casualty is fully assessed in an appropriate surgical setting. You should also remember that even minor punctures of the abdomen can be associated with severe internal bleeding.

Evisceration is where the abdominal contents are exposed to the outside or removed from the abdominal cavity through a wound

PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS OF EVISCERATION AND BLEEDING FROM ABDOMEN

HISTORY
a. Patient suffering blunt trauma in an accident
b. Stabbing or shooting

SIGNS
a. Poor perfusion
b. Guarding and rigidity of abdomen
c. Obvious injury to body
d. Frank blood excreted from body

SYMPTOMS
a. Pain and tenderness

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TREATMENT OF EXTERNAL BLEEDING FROM ABDOMEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Treat external bleeding from wound</td>
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<td>2. Cover entire wound using ‘Glad wrap’ or dressing soaked in sterile saline</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Examine and continuously assess casualties perfusion status</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Immediately call ambulance</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Sit casualty up slightly and place something under knees to keep them bent</td>
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<td>6. Give nothing to eat or drink</td>
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<td>7. Reassure casualty</td>
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INTERNAL BLEEDING

Internal bleeding into the abdomen is a common injury which presents a major threat to life and there is nothing you can do to control the bleeding. It is essential that the bleeding is identified and the casualty taken to a surgical hospital as soon as possible.

PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS OF INTERNAL BLEEDING

HISTORY
a. Patient suffering blunt trauma in an accident
b. Stabbing or shooting
c. History of illness such as bleeding ulcers

SIGNS
a. Poor perfusion
b. Guarding and rigidity of abdomen

SYMPTOMS
a. Pain and tenderness

ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM

An abdominal aortic aneurysm is where a weakness occurs in the wall of the aorta in the abdominal cavity causing a ballooning out of the aorta. This condition mainly afflicts men, from their late 50’s onwards. The treatment is the same as for any abdominal pain and the casualty should be assessed by their medical practitioner.

Ruptured or leaking abdominal aortic aneurysm

Rupture of the aorta can lead to rapid death and kills 6,000 people per year in Australia...

PROVISIONAL DIAGNOSIS OF RUPTURED ABDOMINAL AORTIC ANEURYSM

HISTORY
a. Older casualty, especially male
b. Onset of abdominal pain/discomfort
c. Patient reports a tearing sensation in abdomen

SIGNS
a. Possible poor perfusion
b. Guarding and rigidity of abdomen
c. Possible orange sized pulsating mass in upper abdomen

SYMPTOMS
a. Pain often radiating to legs
b. Tenderness
c. Tearing sensation

TREATMENT OF INTERNAL ABDOMINAL BLEEDING INCLUDING AORTIC ANEURYSM

1. Examine and continuously assess casualties perfusion status
2. Immediately call ambulance
3. Sit casualty up slightly and place object under knees to keep them bent
4. Take observations and reassure casualty

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