

Special Populations

Chapter 34

Pediatrics

Common Problems

- Choking
- Burns
- Trauma
- Abuse

Common MOI

- Falls
- Bumps
- Choking
- Abuse related injuries
- SIDS- read chart on page 1197
- Sports related injuries in older children

Age Related Differences

- Less rigid airway
- Less developed muscles
- Abdominal breathing
- Larger tongue in proportion to their mouth
- Higher pulse rate
- Higher respiratory rate
- Lower blood pressure- use Cap refill if needed
- Better compensation for shock

Assessment

- For smaller children begin at the feet
- Allow a caregiver to hold the child if there is no sign of abuse and it will not impact the assessment
- Note: there may be a language barrier

Geriatrics

GEMS DIAMOND

Common Problem

- Polypharmacy
- CP/SOB-CHF/COPD
- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Stroke

Common MOI/NOI

- Confusion of medication
- Neuropathy
- Altered mental status
- Pediledma
- DVT
- Delerium/dementia
- Syncope
- Psychiatric emergencies

Age Related Differences

- Less elastic tissue
- Weakening of heart muscle
- Degeneration on muscle
- Kyphosis
- Osteoporosis
- Lessened ability to compensate for shock

Assessment

- Assess the scene for patient hazards and signs of abuse/neglect
- Allow “think time” for questions
- Do not assume anything about the patient
- Never assume anything is “normal”
- Be aware of gastronomy and urine catheters and bags
- Utilize resources when responding to nursing facility

Special Challenges

Developmental

- Down syndrome
- Autism
- Developmental disability
- Brain injury

Physical Challenges

- Hearing impairment
- Blindness
- Cerebral palsy
- Spine bifida
- Paralysis
- Obesity

Dealing with Obese Patients

- Plan early for extra help
- Be aware of weight related issues
- Utilize special equipment when needed
- Ask the patient for the best way to move them
- Be aware of pinch points on equipment
- Notify the receiving facility early

Special Devices

- Tracheotomy tube (stoma)/ DOPE
- Mechanical ventilators
- Apnea monitor
- Pacemaker
- Central line
- Shunts
- Vagal nerve stimulators