

# Hostile Environment Injuries

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## Abdominal Wounds

May be far more serious than it looks

### Treatment

- Lay casualty down/loosen tight clothing
- Protect protruding intestine with cling film or plastic, do not let it dry out
- Apply a large dressing over the wound
- Treat for shock
- Seek urgent medical help

## Penetrating Chest Injury

### Treatment

- Immediately seal the wound with your hand
- Secure with an air-tight dressing - taped on three sides
- Lean towards the injured side
- Monitor
- Seek medical help

## Avulsions

- Occur when a flap of skin is torn loose
- Danger lies not only in blood loss, but also in the compromise of blood flow
- Treatment is aimed at restoring the blood supply

## Amputations

- Preservation of amputated parts:
- Rinse free of debris
- Wrap loosely in damp dressings
- Seal it inside a plastic bag
- Place onto ice
- Keep it cool but do not freeze

### Do not

- Warm an amputated part
- Place it in water
- Place it directly on ice

## Blast

Four injury patterns

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Miscellaneous

Secondary Blast Injuries

Landmine Injuries

## Head Injuries

- Scalp
- Skull
- Brain: -

Concussion

Compression

## Concussion

Results from the brain being shaken

Signs and symptoms: -

- Unconscious for a short period
- Memory loss
- Dizziness or nausea

## Treatment

- A.B.C's and monitor
- If recovered within 3 minutes watch closely, if not seek medical help

## Compression

Bruising or bleeding causing an increase of pressure on the brain

Signs and Symptoms: -

- Deteriorating level of response

- Apparently a full recovery followed by a deterioration
- Unequal pupils/weakness on one side
- Slow/full pulse
- Pupil Response

## Treatment

Conscious: -

- Support in a comfortable position
- Monitor
- Seek urgent medical help

Unconscious: -

- A.B.C's
- Recovery position?
- Monitor
- Seek urgent medical help