

DROWNING-NEAR DROWNING

INTRODUCTION:

Patient presentation of history of being submerged under water for an excessive period of time resulting in potential cardiopulmonary compromise. Concomitant injuries such as cervical spine trauma should be suspected and treated accordingly.

1. Be aware of potential **C-Spine** injury in association with drowning. Immobilize and protect C-Spine during rescue, or extrication when indicated. Move patient to stable surface - Backboard ASAP.
2. **EVALUATE C-A-B-C-D-E'S carefully.** Have suction available and suction as needed.
3. **OXYGEN** - High Concentration by reservoir mask, or;
 - Patient should be ventilated with visible chest rise.
4. **REMOVE** wet clothing - Cover with blankets to conserve body heat.
5. **ECG MONITOR and Vital Signs**
6. **INTUBATE** - If indicated - Observe C-Spine precautions
7. **IV ACCESS** - Lactated Ringer's - TKO rate
8. **TRANSPORT - As Soon AS Possible**
9. **CONTACT RECEIVING HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER ORDERS.**