

# Pediatric Trauma Care

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**Children's Hospital Colorado**  
*Here, it's different.™*

## What will you do?

You work in a situation without significant pediatric surgical resources or back up. You must care for 4-year-old child who was involved in a high-speed MVC and inappropriately restrained in the back seat. The patient is unconscious and bleeding profusely from a large scalp laceration. You note shallow breathing, heart rate is 150 BPM, and ashen color of the skin. The abdomen is rock hard and there is a large seatbelt sign.

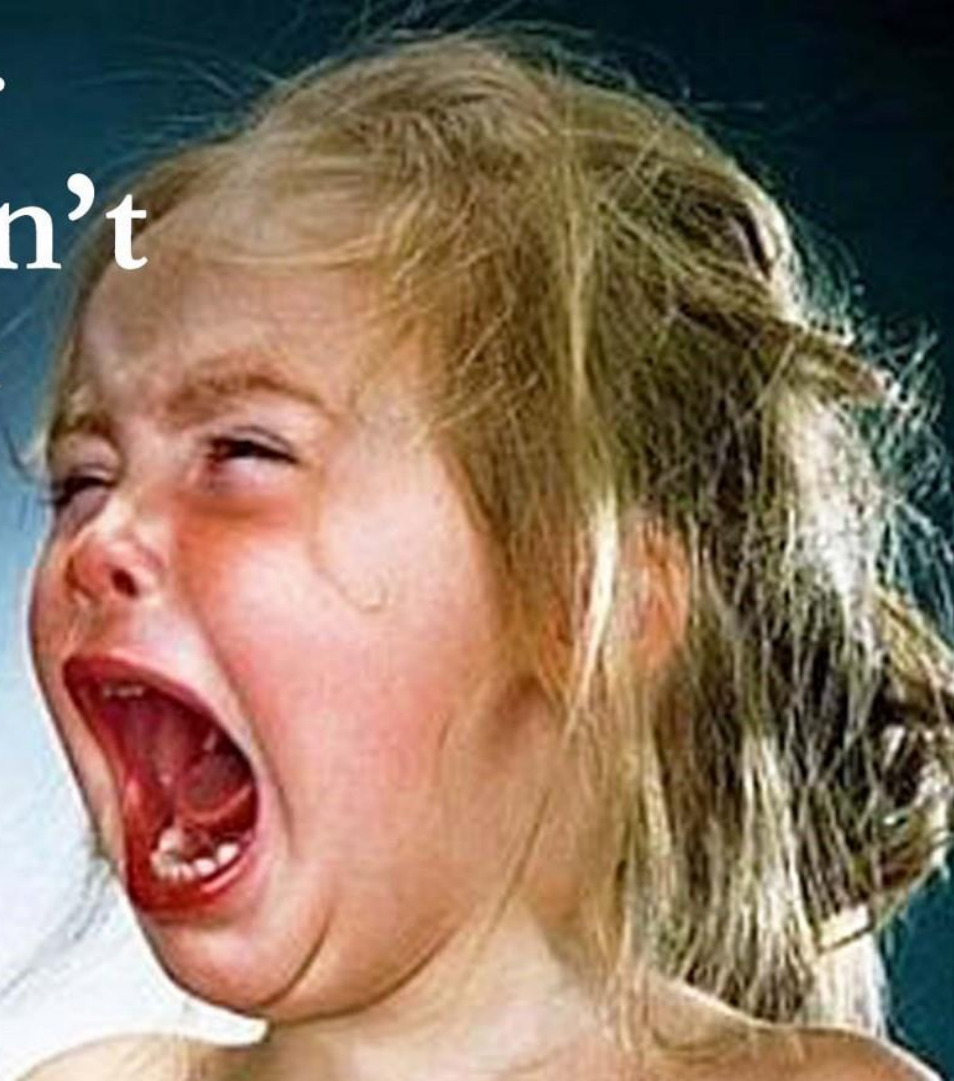


**Disclosures:  
None**



OK...

Don't  
freak  
out.



TENTH EDITION



# ATLS<sup>®</sup>

## Advanced Trauma Life Support<sup>®</sup>

### Student Course Manual

New to this edition ▶ **mATLS<sup>™</sup>**  
MOBILE ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT



THE  
COMMITTEE  
ON TRAUMA



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes

100+ years



# Childhood Injuries

- Injury mortality accounts for more deaths annually than all other childhood illness COMBINED.
- Neurologic and respiratory derangements far exceed hemodynamic derangements.



# Things with Wheels



# Falls

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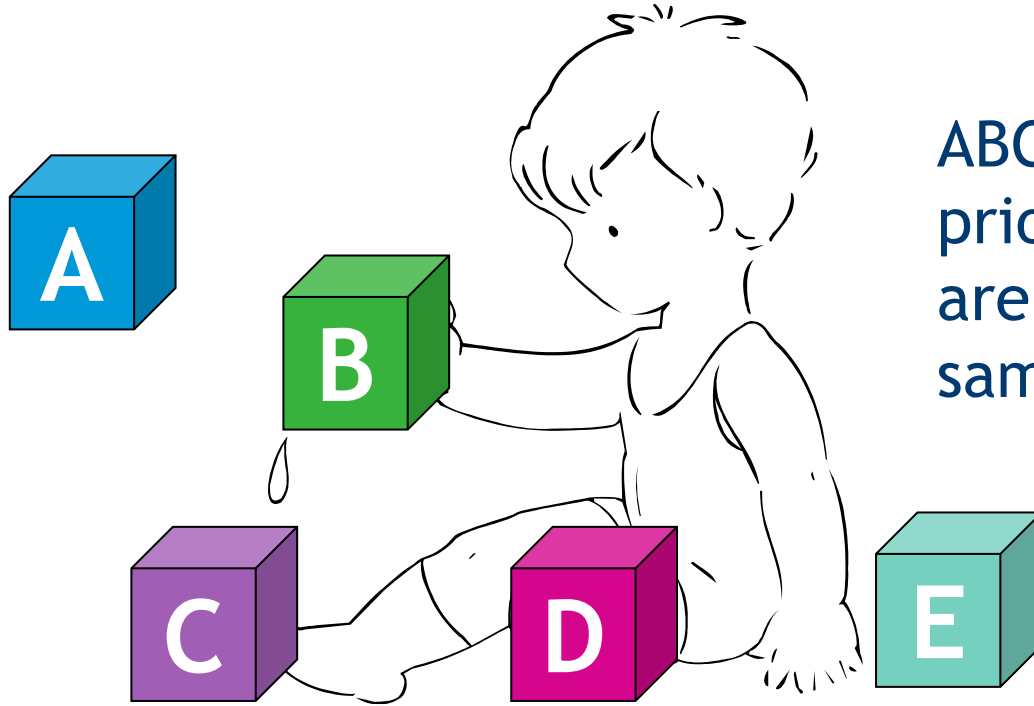




**Multisystem injuries are the rule – not the exception.**







ABCDE  
priorities  
are the  
same.



# Bealer's Philosophy on ATLS

ATLS boils down to three plastic tubes:

- A tube in the throat (Airway)
- A tube in the chest (Breathing)
- A tube in the vein (Circulation)



ALL PETER'S  
INTUBATION  
NIGHTMARES  
BEGAN THE  
SAME WAY



# Airway Pitfalls

## DANGER!

- Short trachea: main stem bronchial intubation
- ETT depth is 3 x ETT size
- Endotracheal tube easily obstructed
- Deceptive presentation of hypovolemic shock



# Unique Childhood Anatomy: Airway

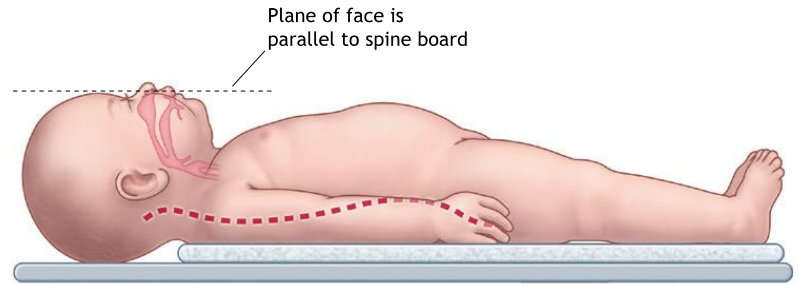
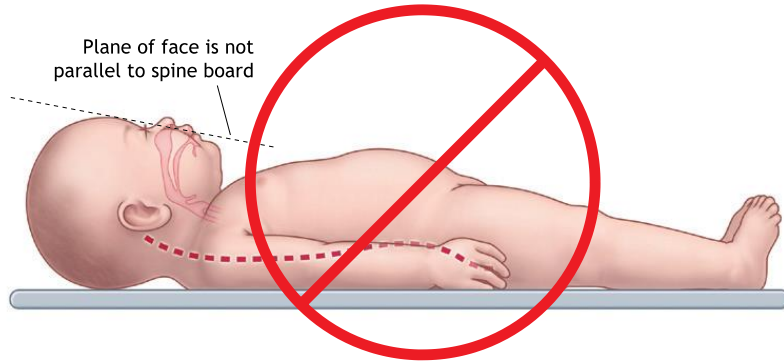
- Larger tongue
- Smaller jaw
- Shorter, narrower, funnel-shaped airway
- Anterior larynx





# Sniff Position

Prominent occiput in younger child 1" pad under torso for neutral position



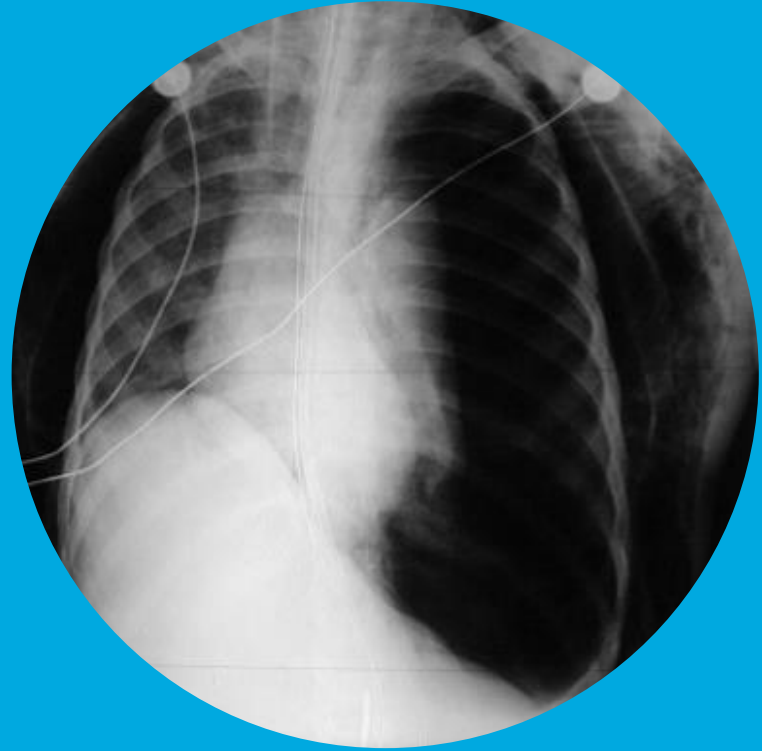


## C-Spine

- Flexible spinal ligaments
- Anteriorly wedged vertebrae
- Flat facet joints
- Angular momentum
- Pseudosubluxation
- SCIWORA

# “B”-Breathing

- Soft, pliable chest wall - pulmonary contusion
- Horizontally aligned ribs, weak intercostal muscles
- Rib fractures indicate significant force
- Tension pneumothorax more likely due to mobile mediastinum

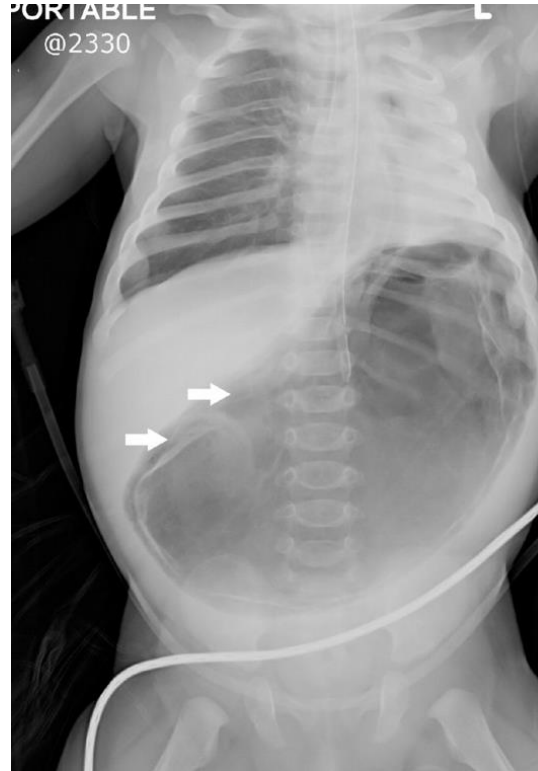


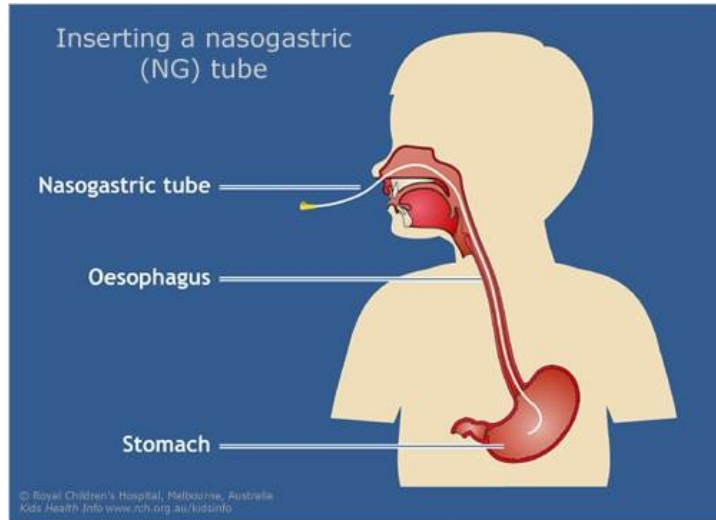
## Chest tubes

- Sized based on rib spacing
- Landmarks identical to adult
- Measure length on child prior to insertion.
- Manage to closed suction/water seal drainage



# Gastric Distention







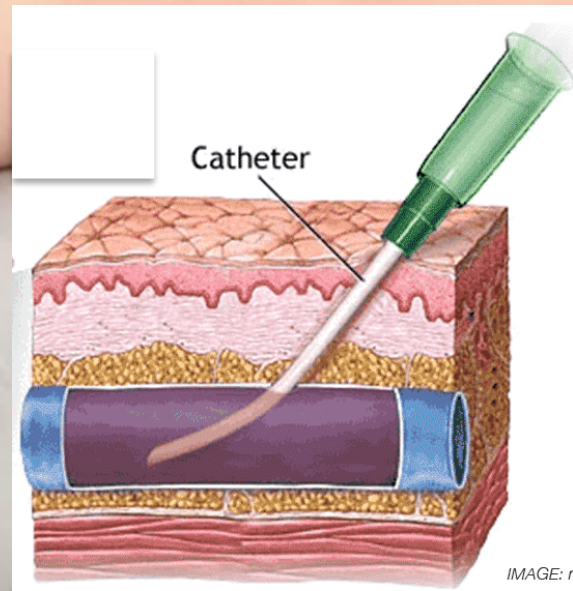
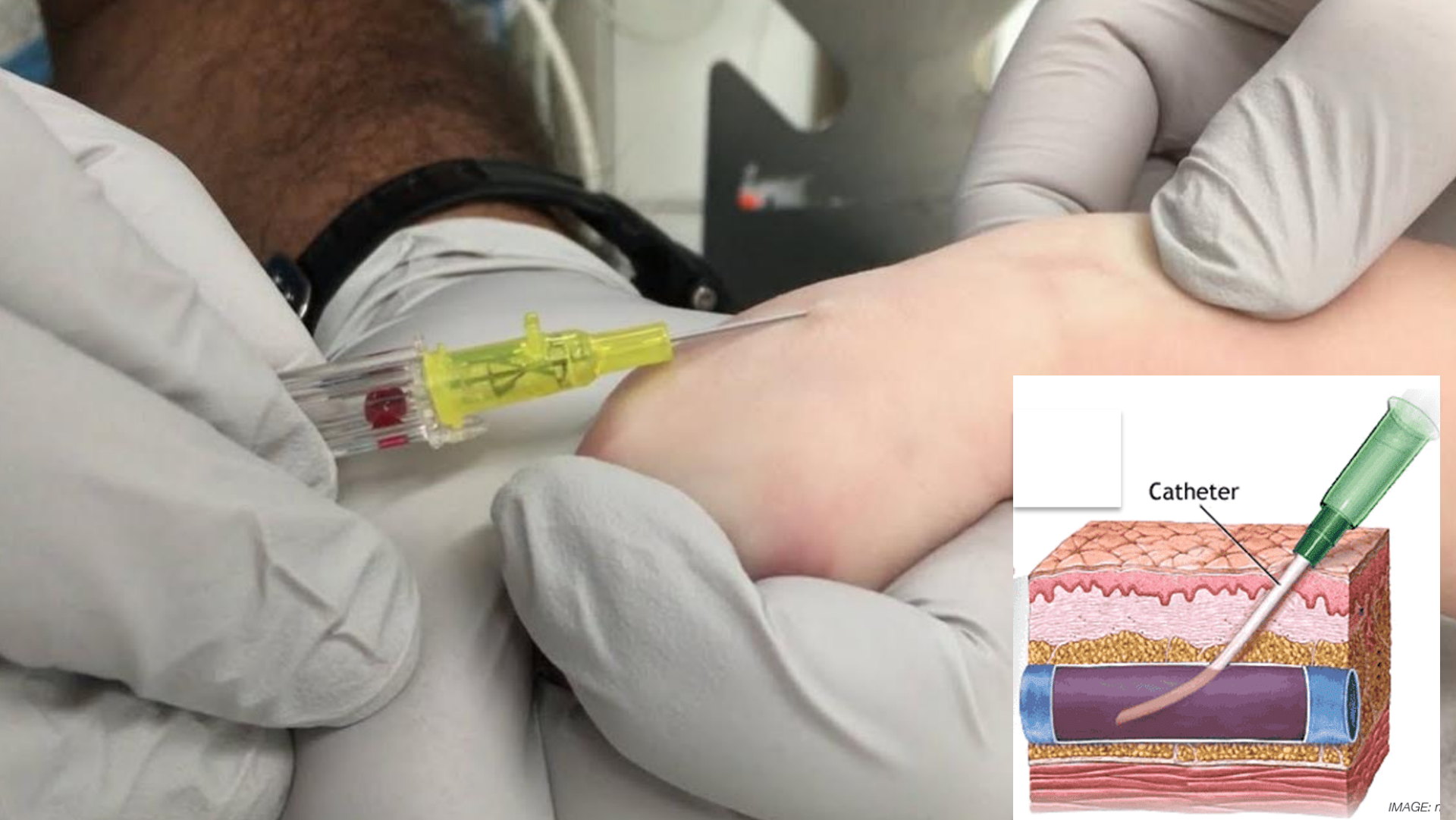
## “C”: Circulation

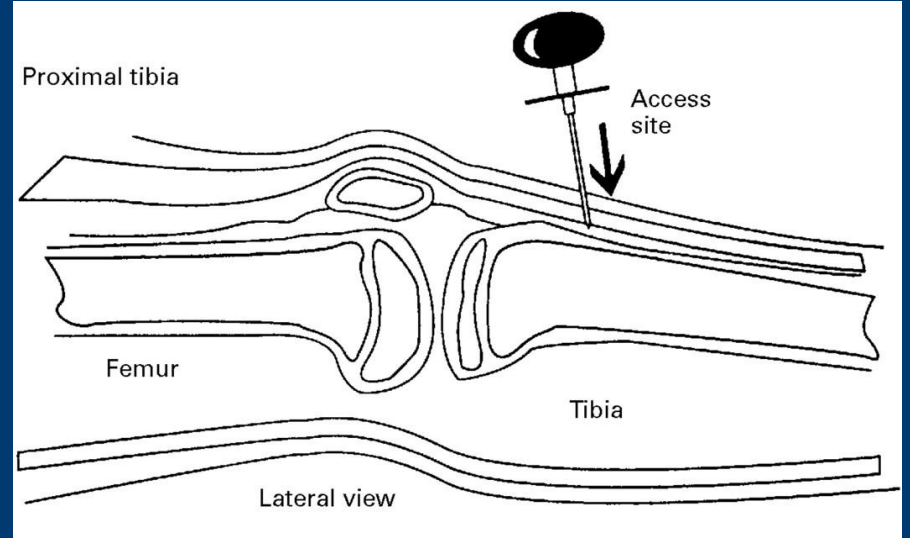
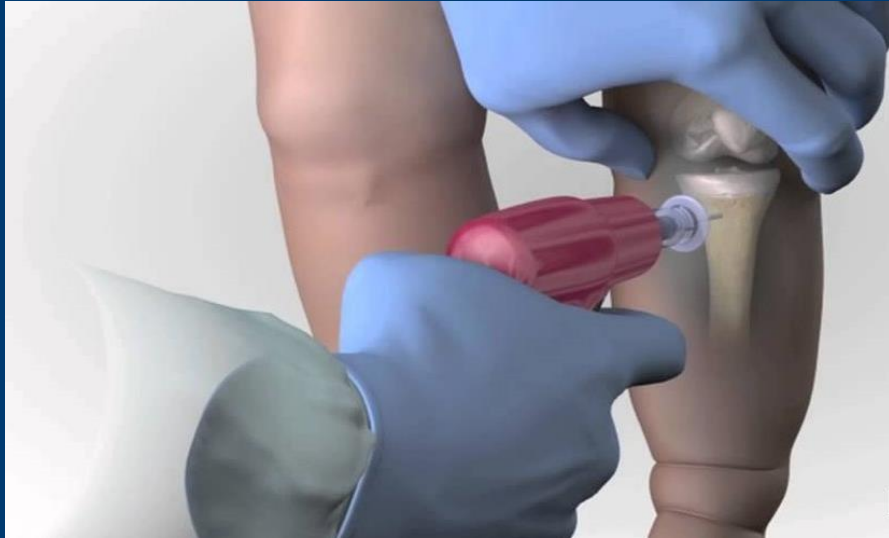
### Signs of Shock

- Tachycardia
- Altered mental status
- Poor capillary refill
- Cool extremities
- External blood loss
- Late Signs
  - Hypotension
  - Low Urine output









# Circulation

- "Estimate" kids total blood volume at 80cc/kg
- Bolus isotonic solution at 20 mL/kg
- Blood should be given if resuscitation is needed following two boluses of crystalloid
- Early use of plasma and platelets
- Bleeding of more than half the child's blood volume in the first four hours should be resuscitated with PRBCs, and early use of plasma and platelets
- Permissive hypotension is an option in patients without traumatic brain injury
- Maintenance fluid after resuscitation follows the 4:2:1 rule
- 4 mL/kg for the first 10 kg
- 2 mL/kg for the second 10 kg
- 1 mL/kg for every kg beyond 20 kg



# “D”: Disability

## Modified Glasgow Coma Scale for Infants and Children

	Child	Infant	Score
Eye opening	Spontaneous	Spontaneous	4
	To speech	To speech	3
	To pain only	To pain only	2
	No response	No response	1
Best verbal response	Oriented, appropriate	Coos and babbles	5
	Confused	Irritable cries	4
	Inappropriate words	Cries to pain	3
	Incomprehensible sounds	Moans to pain	2
	No response	No response	1
Best motor response*	Obeys commands	Moves spontaneously and purposefully	6
	Localizes painful stimulus	purposefully	5
	Withdraws in response to pain	Withdraws to touch	4
	Flexion in response to pain	Withdraws to response in pain	3
	Extension in response to pain	Abnormal flexion posture to pain	2
	No response	Abnormal extension posture to pain	1
	No response	No response	1

\*If patient is intubated, unconscious, or preverbal, the most important part of this scale is motor response. Motor response should be carefully evaluated.





## “D” – cont’d

- Antibiotics for open fractures
- Spinal precautions
- Aligning fractures
- Assessing for compartment syndrome
- Early removal of backboards

## Exposure

- Higher body surface area to mass ratio
- Thinner skin
- Less insulation by subcutaneous tissue

***PREVENT  
HYPOTHERMIA.***



# How Kids Are Different

- Age-specific vital signs
- Smaller blood volume (70 - 80 mL / kg)
- Decreased functional residual capacity
- Vigorous compensatory response
- Sudden deterioration
- Increased vagal tone



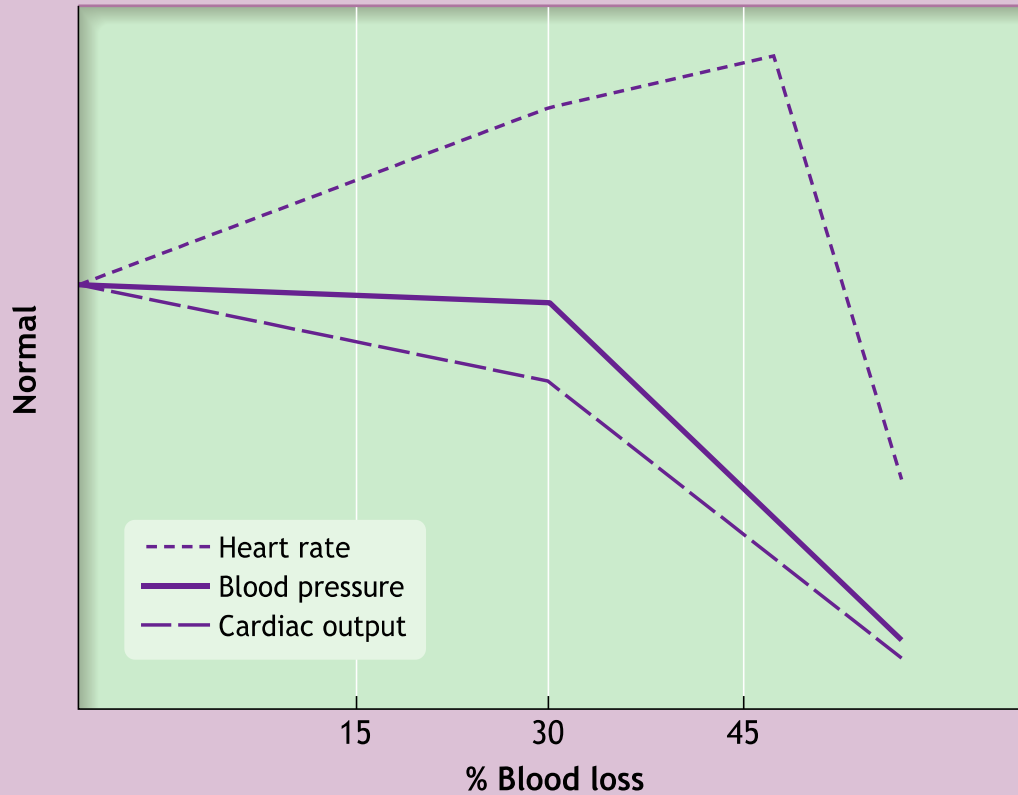
# Age-Specific Vital Signs

Sign	Age Group		
	0 – 2 years	3 – 5 years	6 – 12 years
Heart Rate	< 150 - 160	< 140	< 100 - 120
Blood Pressure	> 60 - 70	> 75	> 80 - 90
Respiratory Rate	< 40 - 60	< 35	< 30
Adequate Urine Output	1.5 – 2 cc/kg	1 cc/kg	0.5 – 1 cc/kg





## Physiologic Impact: Hemodynamic Changes

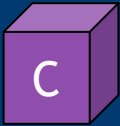




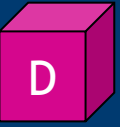
Obstructs easily - Usual reason for DECOMPENSATION



Tension pneumothorax; avoid barotrauma



Vascular access; fluid and blood



Pediatric GCS score; extremities/compartament syndrome



Avoid heat loss





**You work in a center without pediatric surgical resources. A 4 year old child who was inappropriately restrained in the back seat presents in shock, with a large "seatbelt" sign and with a rigid abdomen. You have started fluid resuscitation. What is your priority in further management?**

- A. CT Scan of the abdomen
- B. Obtain FAST-in the ED
- C. Administer IV antibiotics
- D. Stabilize the patient and arrange immediate transfer to a center with appropriate surgical resources





## Stabilization

- Identify and manage life and limb threats within your capabilities
- Focus on the patient
  - ✓ Repeat Primary/Secondary Survey
  - ✓ Shock Therapy
- Appropriate Immobilization
- **TRANSPORT IMMEDIATELY**





**Patient is a 4-year-old appropriately restrained child involved in a high speed MVC. Patient is awake, alert and hemodynamically stable. Physical exam is normal. Your center has no resources for observing pediatric patients. What is your next step in management?**

- A. CT Scan of the abdomen
- B. Obtain FAST-in the ED
- C. Discharge patient to home
- D. Stabilize the patient and arrange immediate transfer to a center with appropriate surgical resources







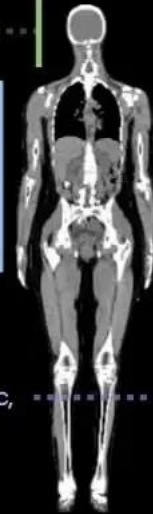
## PAN SCAN


### Whole Body CT (WBCT)

1. Non-contrast head, cervical spine

2. IV contrast enhanced imaging of the chest, abdomen and pelvis

3. 3D reconstructions of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine





Don't scan  
UNLESS your  
center is  
capable of  
acting on the  
result.

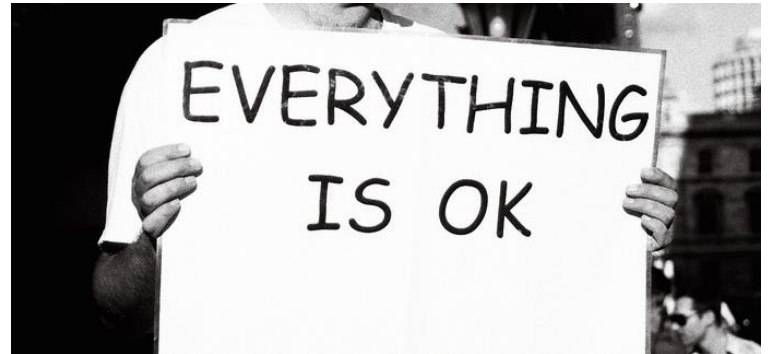
ATLS-10<sup>th</sup> ED







**CT only provides  
images not  
reassurance**



Safest way to obtain  
reassurance

**OBSERVATION**



**What is the only imaging “required” prior to transferring an injured child?**







**G-SPAN**

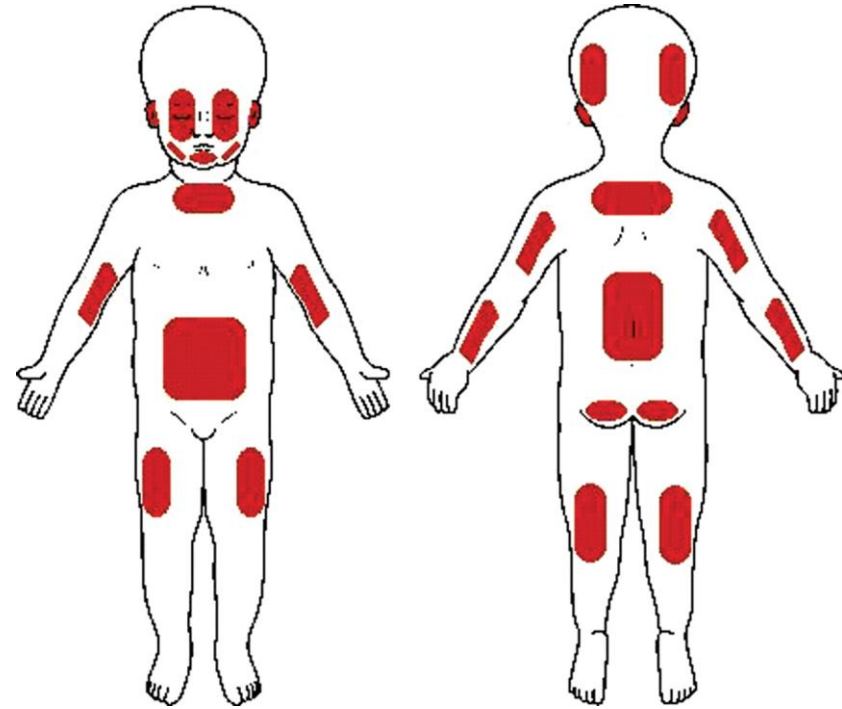
PRESENTS:

**PANTS OF FIRE**

The Road to 2000 Lies



- Bruising on the Trunk, Ears, or Neck on a child less than 4 years
- ANY bruising on a child less than 4 MONTHS

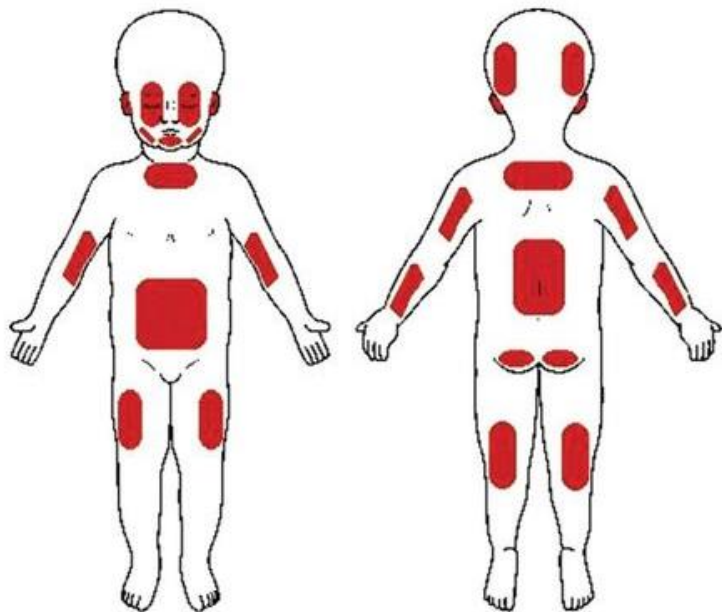


- Injuries to Fronulium

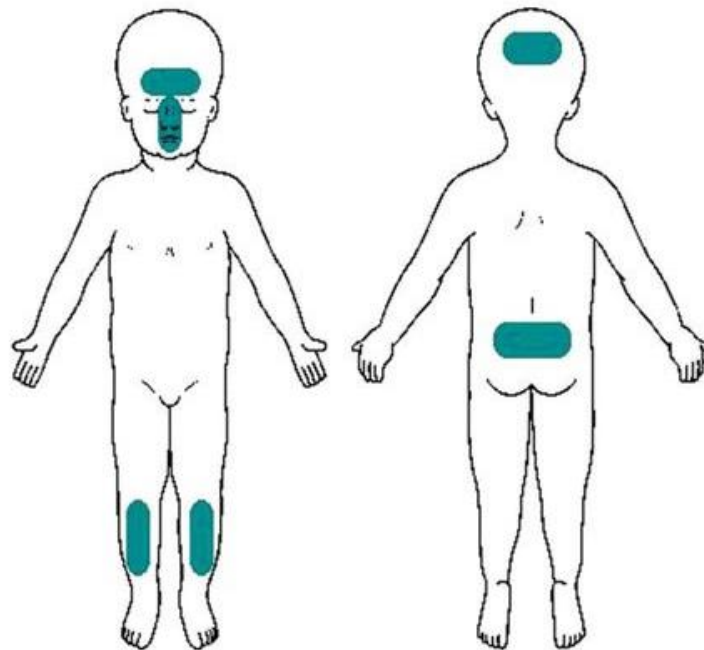


# Physical Abuse Bruising

**Locations Suggestive of Abuse  
Patterns**



**Locations Suggestive  
Accidental Bruising**







## What is a provider's responsibility in cases of NAT?

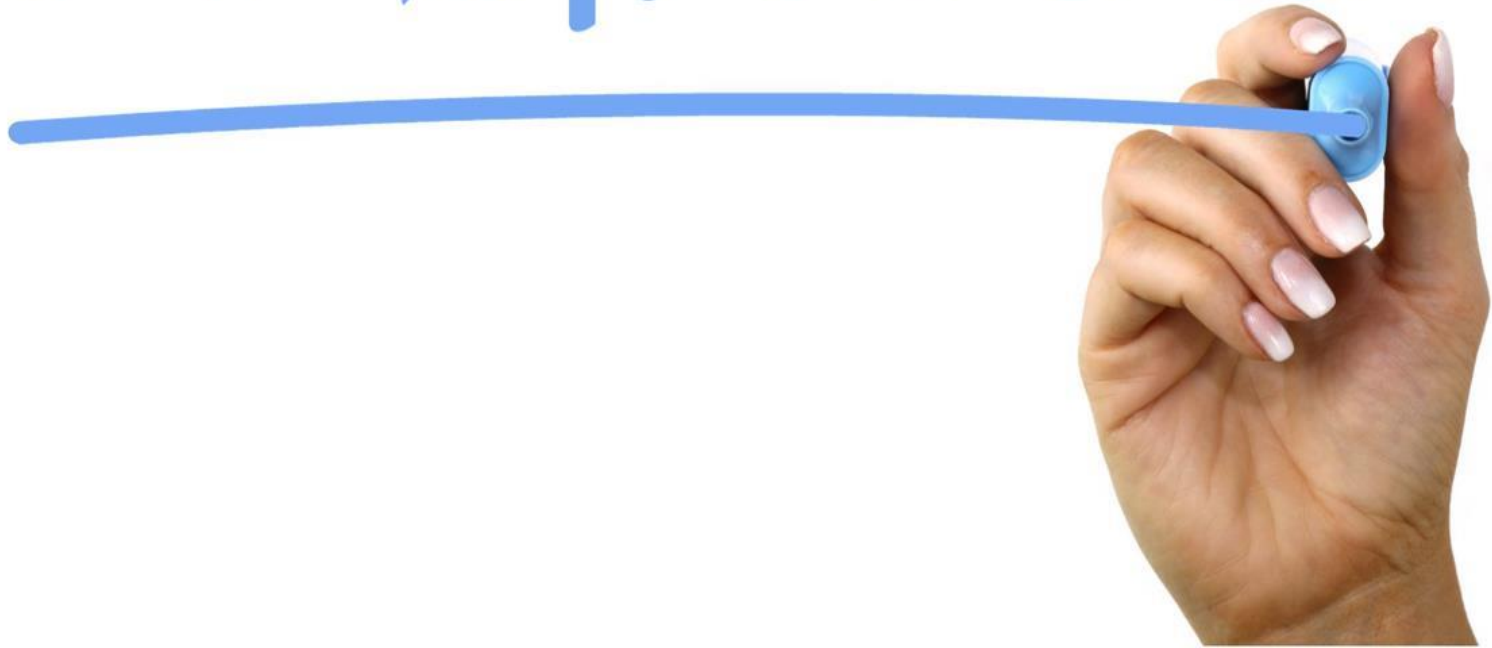
1. Provide expert testimony in court
2. Provide confirmation to law enforcement that an abusive injury has occurred.
3. Collect evidence and provide prosecutorial opinion confirming abuse
4. Report suspected cases of abuse



## 4. Report suspected cases of abuse



# DIAGNOSIS



# DIAGNOSIS



- Assessment from a PEM
- Consultation with Trauma Surgery
- CPT specialist consultation
- Skeleton Survey
- Retinal Examination
- Axial imaging where appropriate



Questions?





# CONTACT US

**ONE CALL:** For Patient Transfers /  
Trauma Consults (719) 305-3999

**Trauma Program Manager:**

Lana Martin

Lana.Martin@childrenscolorado.org or  
(719) 305 – 6100 option 2

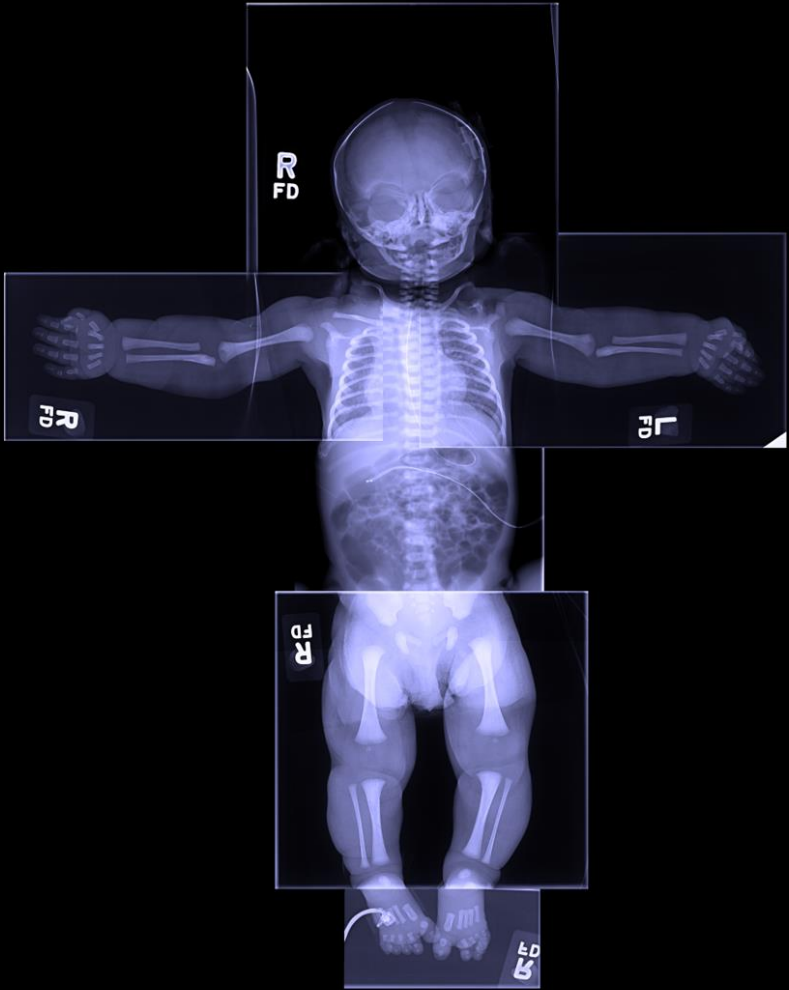
**COS Pediatric Grand Rounds/General  
Surgery:**

Mike Pirtle

Michael.Pirtle@childrenscolorado.org or  
(719) 305-6100 option 4



**Do you have to identify every injury prior to transfer of the patient?**







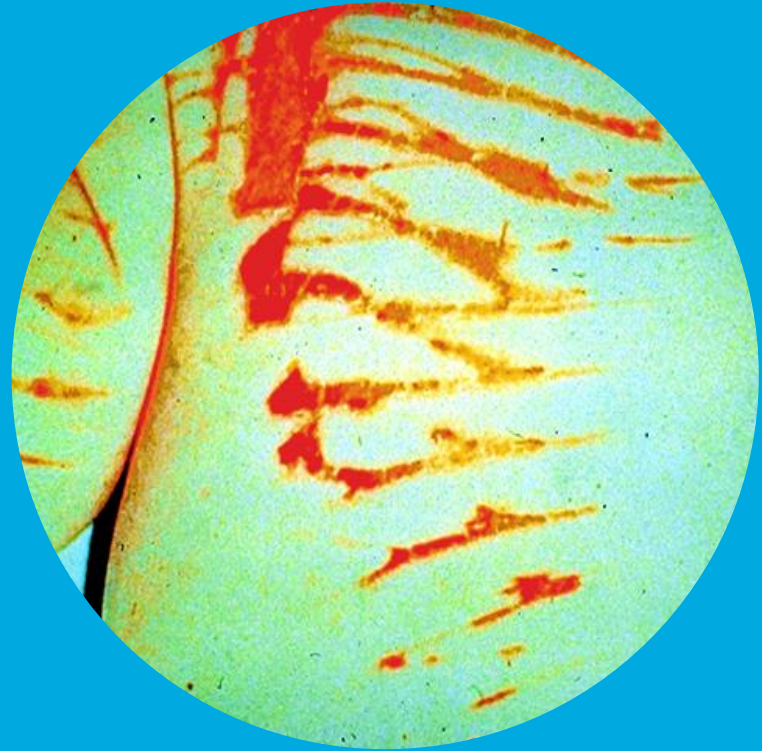
## Mechanisms of Injury and Biomechanics

- Motor vehicle crashes
- Falls
- Lap belt complex
- Air bag injuries

# Child Maltreatment

Associated with:

- Head injuries
- Burns
- Abdominal injuries
- Soft tissue injuries
- Fractures



# Types of Injuries

- Blunt trauma: 80%
- Order of frequency
  - Head
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Abdomen, liver and spleen most common abdominal injury
  - Thorax

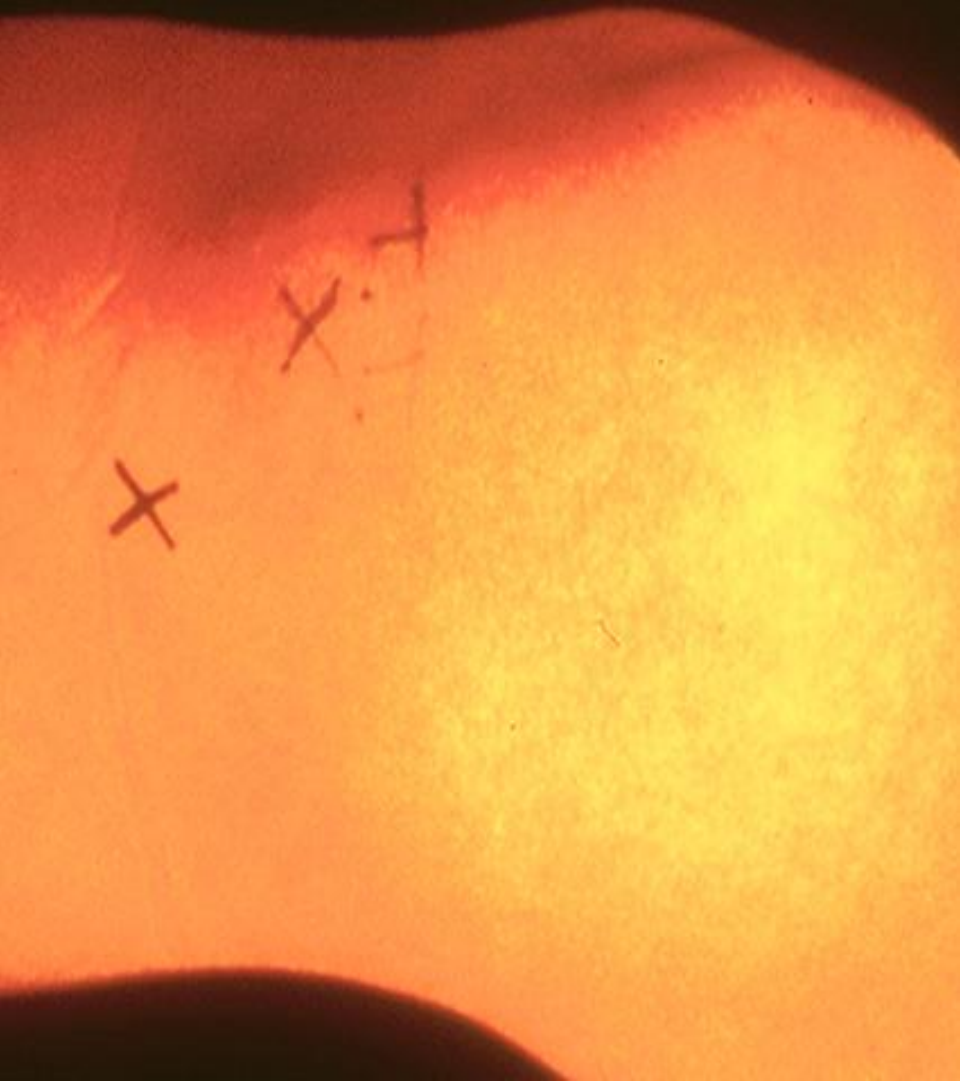


**What are the patient care responsibilities in centers without the resources for definitive care ?**

# Child on a Backboard

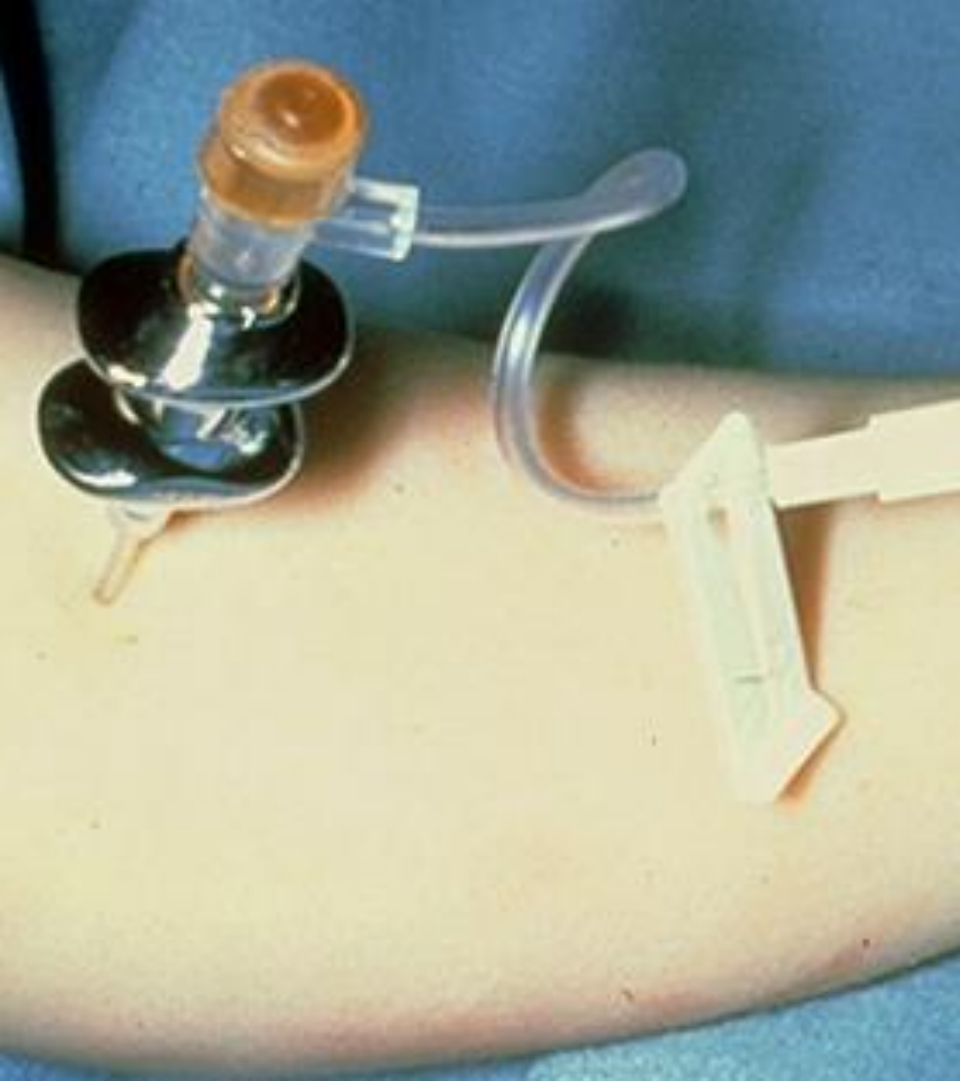






## Site for Intraosseous Infusion

If peripheral venous access cannot be established within 3 attempts or 90 seconds, initiate intraosseous (IO) access with a 16- or 18-gauge bone marrow needle.



## Intraosseous Infusion

- In children under 6 years of age, use the proximal tibia
- Verify placement by aspiration of bone marrow
- Fluid, blood, and medications can be infused

# Planning and Implementation

- Insert an indwelling catheter
  - Infants: 2 ml/kg/hr
  - Children: 1 ml/kg/hr
- Keep the child warm
- Get a complete set of vital signs, including temperature
- Obtain a pediatric consult

## Psychosocial support

- Utilize anxiety-reducing techniques
- Provide family members with information; include them in care; refer them to support programs
- Report suspected child maltreatment
- Prepare for operative intervention, admission, or transfer
- Provide injury prevention teaching



# Monitor

- Vital signs
- Urinary output
- Level of anxiety of patient and family and their ability to cope



# Summary



# Planning and Implementation

## Psychosocial support

- Utilize anxiety-reducing techniques
- Provide family members with information; include them in care; refer them to support programs
- Report suspected child maltreatment
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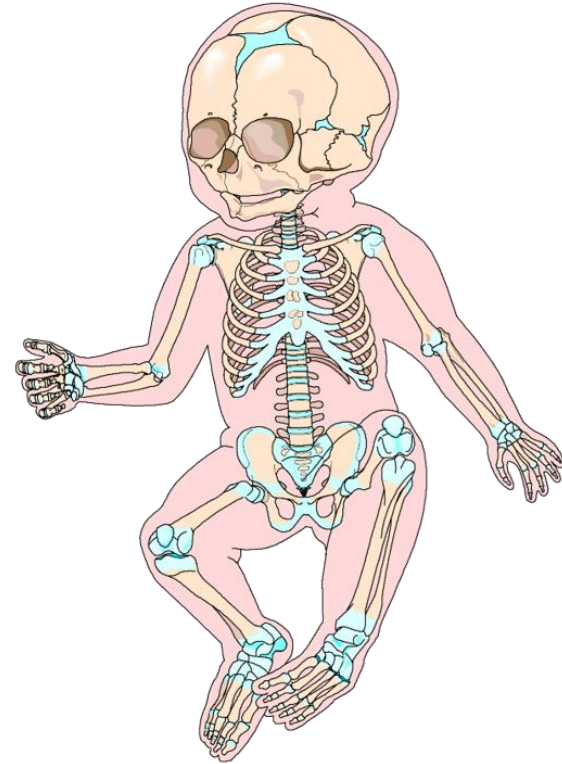
# Childhood Injuries

- Injury mortality accounts for more deaths annually than all other childhood illness COMBINED
- Kids are different-Anatomy, physiology and mechanisms of injury produce patterns of injury that are distinct from adults
- Injuries must be considered in terms of both age and stage of development.
- Neurologic and respiratory derangements far exceed hemodynamic derangements.



# Anatomy

- Larger head, softer cranium, open fontanelles
- Open physal spaces, flexible cartilagenous skeleton





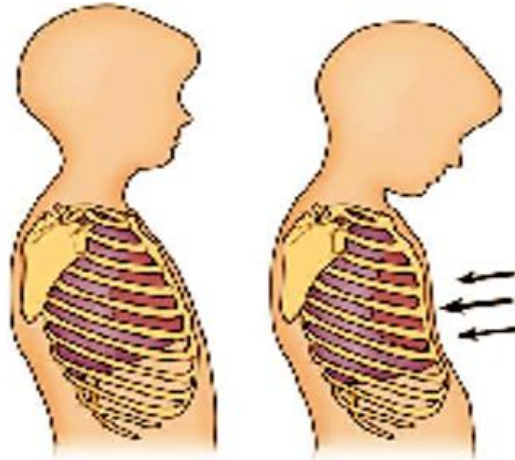
# Anatomic and Physiologic Differences

## Anatomic/Physiologic Differences

- Softer, thinner chest wall
- Compensatory vasoconstriction
- Larger body surface/mass ratio

## Clinical Correlation

- Lung injury more frequent
- Normal blood pressure with early shock
- Multiple system injury common; heat loss



# Mission

*As a private, non-profit pediatric hospital, our mission is to improve the health of children through the provision of high-quality, coordinated programs of patient care, research, education and advocacy.*

## Patient Care

We keep our patients and their families at the center of everything we do, especially when it comes to experience, quality and safety. Equipped with the most advanced technology, our experts deliver some of the best outcomes in the country.

## Research

We offer our patients the most innovative treatments today. Collaborating with our colleagues from the University of Colorado on the Anschutz Medical Campus ensures that our discoveries rapidly lead to new medicines, devices and treatment practices.

## Education

Lifelong learning advances our mission. Through academic and community partnerships, we shape the future of pediatric health by training tomorrow's health care professionals.

## Advocacy

Our influence extends beyond our health system. We bring health programs to the community and advocate in the state and national legislatures.



# Vision

*Child health. Reimagined. Realized.*

# Values

For a child's sake...

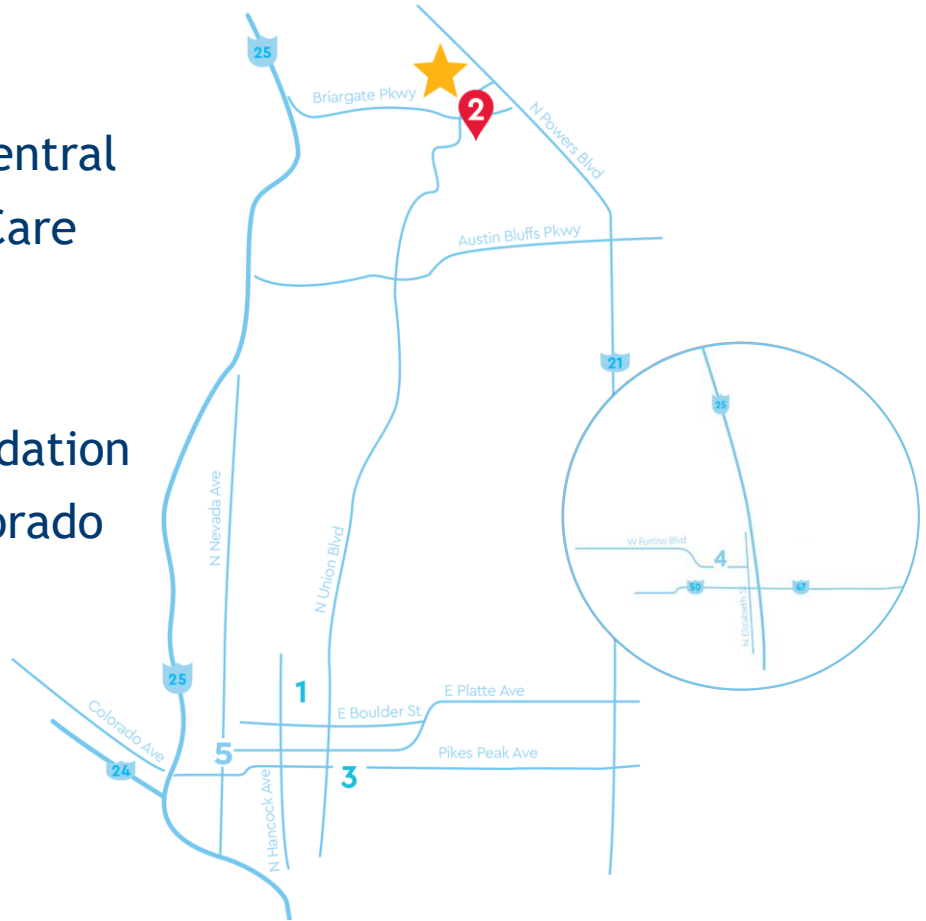
We are a caring community called to honor the sacred trust of our patients, families and each other through humble expertise, generous service and boundless creativity.

...This is the moment.



# Where We Are

- 1 Pediatric expertise at Memorial Central
- 2 Urgent and Outpatient Specialty Care
- 3 Therapy Care, Printers Park
- 4 Therapy Care, Pueblo
- 5 Children's Hospital Colorado Foundation
- ★ Children's Hospital Colorado—Colorado Springs





## What We Bring

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### First

Pediatric only hospital in Southern Colorado

### First

Operating rooms built just for kids

### First

Emergency room built and staffed for kids only

### First

Epilepsy monitoring unit for just kids

# Our families complete our care team

*We include patients and their families in every care decision – and we do our best to make sure they don't have to worry about anything else while they're here. We know kids need to play, learn and connect, even when they're sick, and we offer dozens of amenities to help them do just that.*

## For kids:



**Child Life specialists**  
help children to cope and feel comfortable in the hospital.



**Philips Ambient Experience MRI**  
puts kids in a jungle or deep sea adventure to make testing less stressful.



**Creative Arts therapists**  
promote physical and emotional health through yoga, art, dance and music.



**Seacrest Studios**  
connects kids in the hospital with an in-house radio and TV broadcast studio.



**Playrooms on every floor**  
offer antsy kids an outlet, wherever they are.



**Teen Zone**  
offers adolescents a 3,000 square-foot hangout with tons of amenities.

## For families:



Private rooms with full-size pullout beds and ample storage



A Family Resource Center, where parents can recharge while kids are in the hospital



A chapel and Spiritual Care for people of any faith



Daycare for siblings at our Creative Play Center



Outside areas and gardens where families can relax and get some fresh air



Flat-screen TVs, internet access and on-demand video in every room



# The Difference

## Childhood Injuries

Fell off my bike.

Fell out of a tree.

Twisted my ankle.

## Adult Injuries

Slept wrong.

Sat too long.

Sneezed too hard.



# Pitfalls

## DANGER!

- Gastric dilation can increase risk of aspiration and cause hypotension
- Difficult intravenous access in children <6 years
- Missed hollow viscus injury
- Subtle musculoskeletal injury findings

