

3.02 DECOMPRESSION INJURY

BLS Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NPO.• 100% Oxygen by non-rebreather mask.• Place patient in left lateral position, have suction ready.
ALS Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IV or IO of Normal Saline TKO.• If SBP < 90 or signs of poor perfusion, Normal Saline fluid bolus.
Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shock position is contraindicated.• Be alert for recurring hypoxia.• Gather dive history in preparation for later transfer to recompression-capable facility:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Total dive time in the last 24 hours.○ Number of dives made, include surface intervals between dives, if available.○ Duration of and time since descent/ascent (total surface interval).○ Depth of deepest submersion and depth of last dive (include previous dives within 24 hours, if available).○ Temperature of the water.○ Symptom onset (times and description).○ Mechanism of injury suggestive of head/neck injury.○ Emergency ascent? If so, from what depth?○ Was the dive made with compressed air or other types of mixed gas?• Joint pain (location/severity)• Pulmonary exam: Rales or signs of pulmonary edema, respiratory distress including symptoms of mediastinal emphysema.• Neurologic exam: Monitor frequently (q 10-15 minutes) for changes.