



# Section 6: Adult Trauma Protocols

## ADULT TRAUMA: ABDOMINAL TRAUMA

E	EMT	E
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P
M	MED CONTROL	M

UNIVERSAL PATIENT CARE PROTOCOL
AIRWAY PROTOCOL
SPINAL MOTION RESTRICTION- SMR
OXYGEN
Determine if Load & Go
Control Hemorrhage / Dress Wounds

<b>Evisceration:</b> Cover, clean saline dressing to loosely stabilize
<b>Penetrating Object:</b> Cover, clean saline dressing – Immobilize object. If too large to transport – attempt to cut with care not to further injure tissue
<b>Penetrating Wounds:</b> Cover, clean saline dressing. Look for exit wound
<b>Blunt Trauma:</b> Assess for change – distention. Note mechanism

<b>IV / IO PROCEDURE</b> 500 ml Normal Saline Bolus to maintain SBP 90 or Radial Pulses
Monitor and Reassess
INITIATE TRAUMA ALERT
<b>TRANSPORT</b> to appropriate facility <b>CONTACT</b> receiving facility <b>CONSULT</b> Medical Direction where indicated



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### ADULT TRAUMA: ABDOMINAL TRAUMA-Cont.

#### PEARLS and KEY POINTS

MECHANISM	SIGNS & SYMPTOMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Blunt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Altered mental status</li><li>Shock</li><li>Distention</li><li>Swelling</li><li>Bulging</li><li>Nausea and vomiting</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Penetrating</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Altered mental status</li><li>Bleeding</li><li>Tenderness</li><li>Pain</li><li>Distention</li><li>Eviseration</li><li>Discoloration</li><li>Entrance / exit wounds</li><li>Nausea &amp; vomiting</li></ul>

Trauma to the abdomen is either Blunt or Penetrating. Blunt injuries are harder to detect and diagnose, and have a death rate twice that of penetrating wounds. Key signs and symptoms of blunt trauma include a patient in shock with no obvious injuries. Distention of the abdomen is an indication of internal hemorrhage. Pain may not be a significant factor. Many abdominal trauma injuries are Load & Go cases.

- Look for both an entrance and exit wound for all penetrating trauma, and treat accordingly.
- For all major trauma patients, the on scene time should be less than ten minutes.