

Scenario Example – Trauma Stabbing Assessment (2 pages)

It's 10:00 pm and a 19 year-old man has been brought in on a stretcher. On arrival in hospital, he is clutching his abdomen, complaining of severe abdominal pain.

ASSESSMENT	FURTHER INFORMATION	KEY POINTS	YES	NO
A	Airway: Patent	A Correctly Assessed		
	C-Spine: Stable	C-Spine Correctly Assessed		
B	Air entry diminished on the right	B Correctly Assessed, Recognise possible right haemothorax diagnosis		
	Percussion note dull on the right (Haemothorax) Respiratory rate 30	Need for oxygen communicated		
C	BP 80/40 (no response to fluid) HR 120 Skin: Pale and sweaty Bleeding: penetrating chest and abdominal trauma with life threatening haemorrhage: Right-sided haemothorax and Intra-abdominal bleeding	Considers bleeding in C exam		
		Skin Assessed Correctly		
		HR + Pulse Assessed Correctly		
		BP Assessed Correctly, recognises patient in shock and acute need for fluids/blood		
		Gains IV Access x2 large bore		
		Bloods taken inc. X-match		
		Bolus IV fluid given x2		
		Transfuse blood if possible Recognises need for urgent surgery/transfer		
D	AVPU: Alert	Candidate recognises life-threatening injury in C and does not move on to D		
	Glucose: 5			
E	E findings:	E Assessed Adequately		
	Stab wound in abdomen			

Diagnosis: penetrating chest and abdominal trauma with life threatening haemorrhage: Right-sided haemothorax and Intra-abdominal bleeding

Equipment (if available)

- Stethoscope
- BP checker
- Cannula + Fluids

Learning Objectives

- Confident use of ABC in the Primary Survey
- Importance of oxygen even when airway is stable. Sensible approach to Cervical Spine
- Correct clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment of a large haemothorax
- Recognition of severe shock and appropriate treatment with rapid fluid resuscitation and early blood transfusion
- Importance of re-assessment
- Recognition of “hidden bleeding” and need for urgent surgical referral and operating theatre treatment

Debrief

Responses to the debrief questions are meant to reflect learning; they require more than yes or no answers. Reflect afterwards on this discussion for your logbook.

1. What did you think was happening?
2. What did you do and why?
3. Do you think your interventions were helpful? Describe how. If not, explain why.
4. Did the team members communicate effectively with each other? Provide examples.
5. Did the team members communicate effectively with the patient? Provide examples.
6. How efficient was the teamwork? Provide examples.
7. What aspects of this scenario exercise can you apply to your clinical practice? How might you apply those aspects?