

A B C D E



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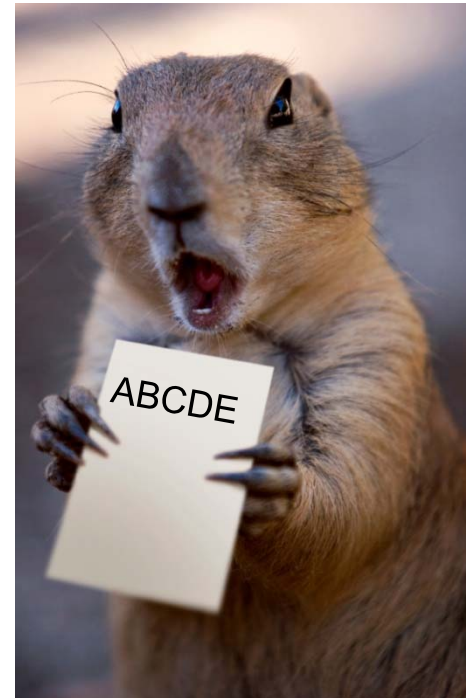
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Objectives



- What is ABCDE
- Why ABCDE
- Outline ABCDE
- Practical examples of ABCDE



What is ABCDE



- Not just an algorithm
- ATLS
- Used worldwide
- Useful in all acute situations - everywhere



Why ABCDE



- Easy to remember
- Structure - helping hand
- Find and treat the most urgent problem first
 - take things in correct sequence



How to do it



Call for help

- Assess
- Treat
- Re-assess

Look - listen - feel

A - Airway

B - Breathing

C - Circulation

D - Disability

E - Everything else

Quick and easy treatment
often solve the problem!

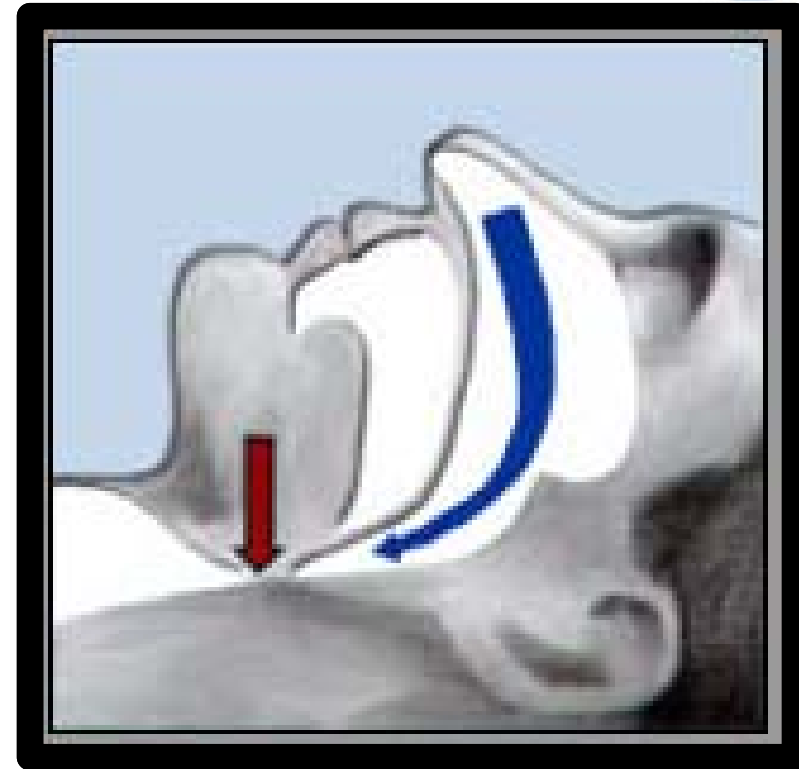




Airway

Assess

- Opening the mouth and look for blood, mucus, vomit or obstruction by tongue
- Listening for snoring, gurgling or no breath sound
- Feel the breath on your skin



Decreased level of consciousness

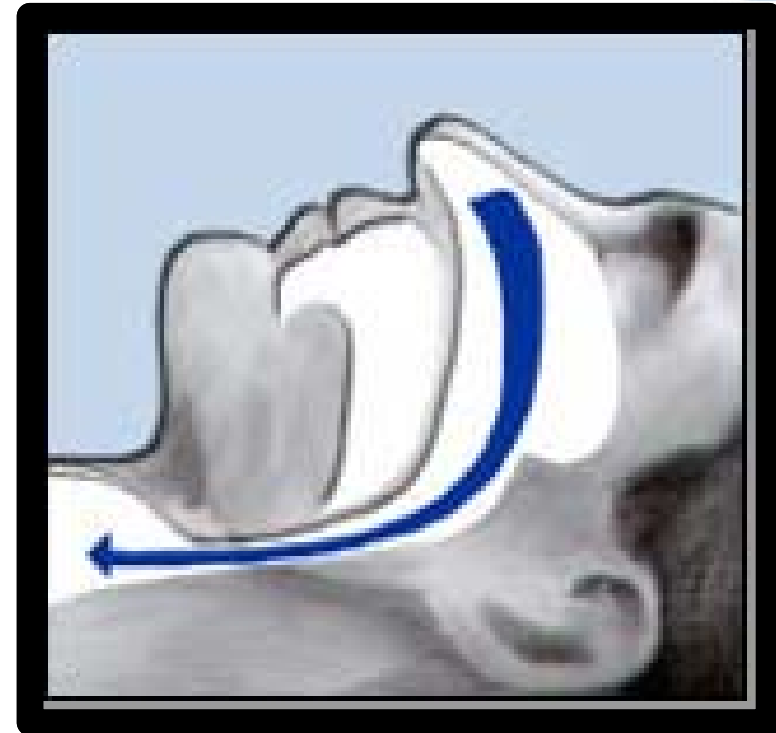




Airway

Treat

- Lateral position
- Chin lift or jaw thrust
- Suction if needed
- Oropharyngeal airway
- Intubate



Re-assess



Special consideration for the obstetric patient



- Swollen mucosal
- Increased risk for aspiration

More difficult to intubate!

Treat the upper respiratory tract very gently during intubation and suction.

Be careful if you use a nasopharyngeal airway.



Breathing



Assess

- Observe chest movements
- Listen to breath sounds
 - frequency, count 30 sec
 - depth
 - regular/irregular
- Look for cyanosis
 - use of accessory muscles
- Pulse Oximeter



Respiratory rate 8-25



Breathing



Treat

- **OXYGEN!!**
- Assist breathing

Re-assess



Special consideration for the obstetric patient



- Oxygen consumption is increased
- Oxygen reserve is decreased



Hypoxic very quickly



Circulation



Assess

- Check the pulse, rate and quality
- Nausea?
- Confusion?
- Check the skin, temperature, color, humidity
- Assess the amount of bleeding
- Blood pressure

Pulse < 100

Blood pressure > 100

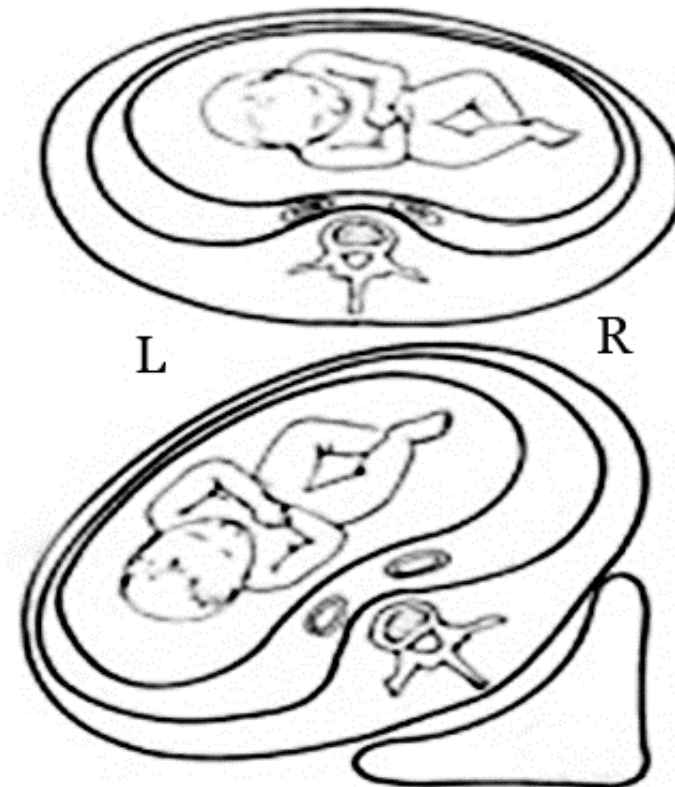


Circulation



Treat

- Left tilt position, lumbar wedge
- Raise the legs
- Vein cannula
- Crystalloid infusion
- Ephedrine
- Blood type and cross match
- Stop any bleeding



Re-assess



Special consideration for the obstetric patient



- A big uterus and supine position may lead to vena caval syndrome!!!

Lumbar wedge under the right hip



Disability



Assess

- A - Alert
- V - Verbal
- P - Pain
- U - Unresponsive



Disability



Treat

- A B C
- Underlying reason

Re-assess



Special consideration for the obstetric patient



- Pre-eclampsia
- Eclampsia
- Hyponatremia
- Hypoglycemia



E – Everything else



- Assess everything else
- Treat everything else



Teamwork



Call for help!



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Summary



- A B C D E - structure
- Help in acute situations
- Take one step at a time: assess, treat, re-assess
- Se - listen - feel
- Treat any problems you find before moving on
- Team work. Communicate clearly
- Call for help!





ASANTE!



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