San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services Inhalation Injury

History

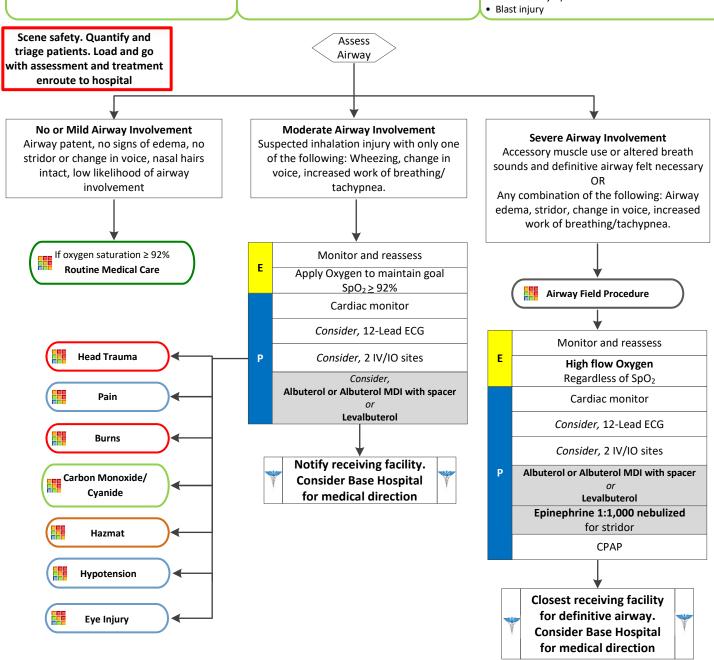
- Type of exposure (heat, gas, chemical)
- · Duration of exposure
- · Time of injury
- · Past medical history
- · Other trauma
- Loss of consciousness

Signs and Symptoms

- Burns, swelling, pain
- Dizziness
- Loss of consciousness
- Hypotension/shock
- · Airway compromise/distress could be indicated by hoarseness/wheezing
- Seizure/AMS after industrial or closed space fire, consider cyanide poisoning

Differential

- Foreign Body Aspiration
- Upper Respiratory Infection
- · Asthma exacerbation
- Anaphylaxis
- · COPD exacerbation
- Cyanide poisoning
- · Thermal injury
- · Chemical/Electrical injury
- Radiation injury



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Pearls

- Consider expedited transport for inhalation injury.
- Ensure patient is properly decontaminated before placing in ambulance and transport to hospital.
- Contact Hazmat or Poison Control Center with questions about chemical or guidance on immediate treatment.
- If able, obtain the name of chemical(s) patient was exposed to pass information along to receiving hospital staff.



Treatment Protocol RO