

Vital Systems – Vital Signs

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Vital Systems - Vital Signs

- Three interrelated systems
- Circulatory
- Respiratory
- Central nervous system
- The result is perfusion

S/S of Circulatory Impairment

- Abnormal pulse
- Abnormal blood pressure

A Respiratory System

- How does air movement happen?
- How does gas exchange take place?
- What can impede successful exchange?
 - Fluid in lungs
 - Rib cage failure
 - Chemical problems (CO poisoning)
 - Absence of O₂
 - Electrical problems

S/S of Respiratory Distress

- Abnormal rate
- Abnormal depth
- Noisy breaths
- Absence of lung sounds

Central Nervous System

- Brain stem controls the vegetative processes
 - Breathing, heartbeat, temperature regulation, elimination
- Impeded by pressure, extreme trauma, hypoxia

S/S of CNS Impairment

- Altered level of consciousness
- Lose recent information in impairment

Alert and Oriented As to Person, Place, Time, and Event

A & O X 4

What Are the Questions?

- Did you hit your head?
- Were you ever unconscious?
- Then the A & O questions
 - What is your name?
 - Where are you?
 - What day and month is it?
 - What happened to you?

How Do We Report A & O?

- Oriented as to person and place but not time or event
- We want to know trends, so we tell them three colors in order and ask for them back in 3-5 minutes
- The colors are used as a continuing monitoring of short term memory

To Repeat: What Are the Questions?

- Did you hit your head?
- Were you ever unconscious?
- Then the A & O questions
 - What is your name?
 - Where are you?
 - What day and month is it?
 - What happened to you?
 - What are those colors?

The End

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