

***Excerpt from
Cardiothoracic
Trauma Course***

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The Scope



Trauma is probably the leading cause of death in all age categories from infancy to middle age 1 - 44 years

Basic Tenets of Resuscitation

- Efforts during the Primary Survey are directed at:
- Establishing a secure Airway
- Ensuring adequate Breathing
- Maintaining proper Circulation
- Primary Survey is brief requiring no more than 1 – 2 minutes.

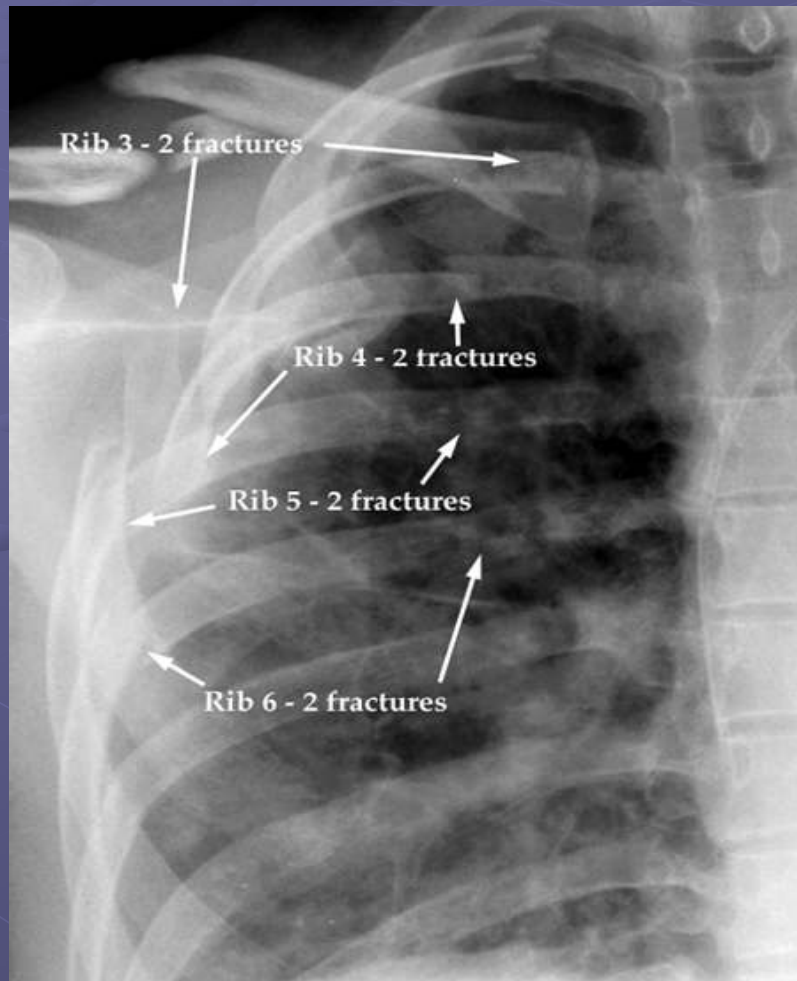
Basic Tenets of Resuscitation

A basic principle of trauma resuscitation is the need for continual Re-evaluation and Re-assessment

Secondary Survey

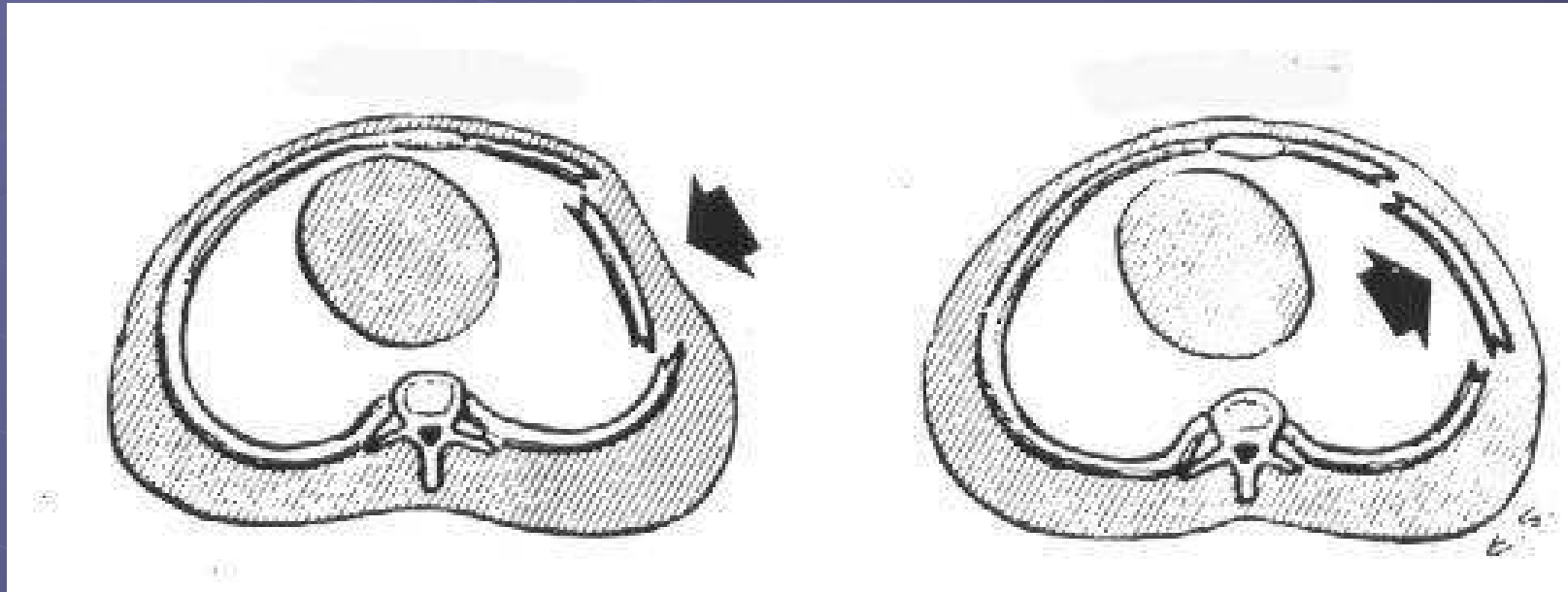
- A thorough head-to-toe examination.
- Injuries are categorized, potentially life-threatening or disabling injuries identified.
- Hemorrhage control should be the target rather than normalization of volume.

Blunt Trauma



- Flail chest is usually associated with multiple rib fractures.
- The major difficulty in flail chest stems from injury to underlying lung.
- Flail chest may not be initially apparent due to splinting of chest wall.

Flail Chest

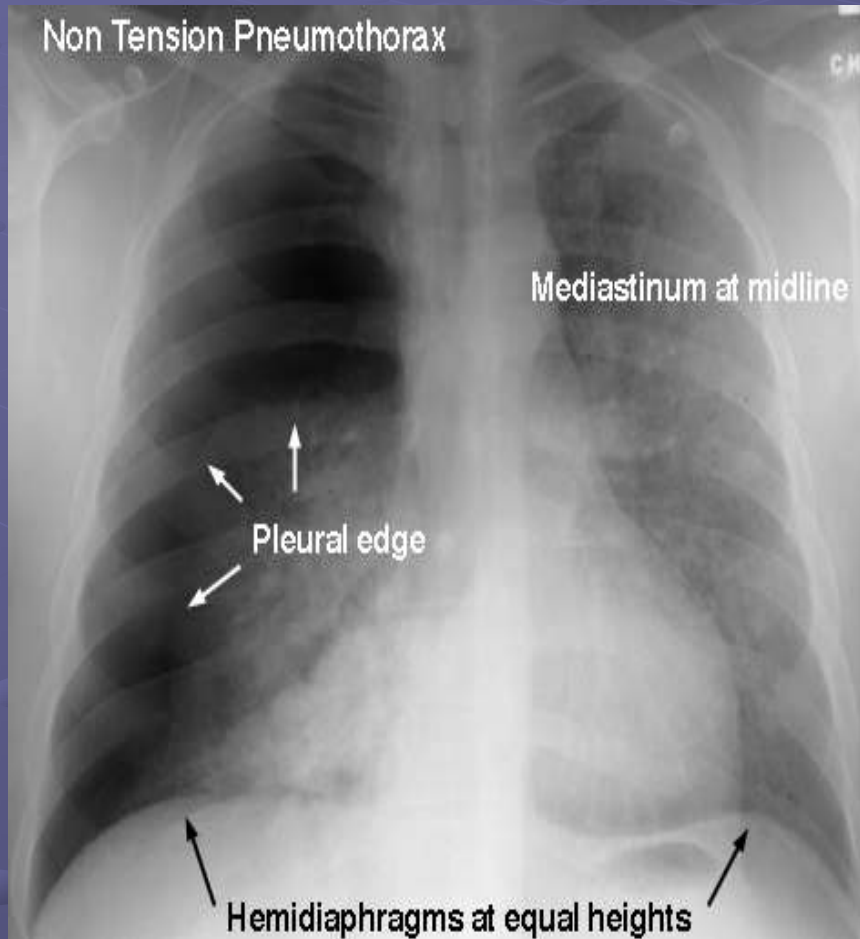


Inspiration

Expiration

Paradoxical motion of the free – floating segment of the chest wall is illustrated

Pneumothorax



- Accumulation of air in the pleural space
- Commonly due to communication with a hole in the lung.
- Usually the lung collapses to the point at which intrapleural air no longer accumulates with inspiration and the pneumothorax is stable

Pneumothoraces

