

Finish the Story-Trauma

Instructor Notes: The purpose of this exercise is two-fold. First, students must be able to finish the story of a patient with traumatic injuries. This requires them to match their perceived patient severity with the details of the story they create. The patient in the initial scenario has musculoskeletal injuries but there are a few things that could make the call go either way (serious or not serious) including the mechanism of injury and slightly confused mental status. You must facilitate to make sure the student's descriptions match their story and create discussion over their work.

An important second message is that in real life there are times patients fall from a roof and are not seriously injured and other times they are fatally injured. *All of the stories your students create could be true.* The exercise should finish with determining reliable signs of severity as well as a realization that a solid assessment is more important than the mechanism of injury in trauma.

Time frame: 30 – 45 minutes

Group or individual activity

You will encounter a wide variety of patients in your EMS experience. You will even encounter patients who appear to have experienced the same condition or injury but experience a very different outcome. This exercise will ask you to finish the story of a patient who has experienced a traumatic injury.

The Call

Bill was working on the roof of a two story house when he lost his balance and fell to the ground. He is able to speak and tells you that although he hit hard, his fall may have been broken by some bushes. He complains of pain to his left shoulder and forearm. You observe deformity in the forearm. Although Bill talks to you, he seems like he may be a little confused.

The Story

You fill in the rest of the story. Specifically:

Do you believe Bill has other injuries? Why or why not? If so, what are they?

Finish the Story-Trauma (cont'd)

If you were to predict Bill's vital signs, what would they be?

- Pulse
- Respirations
- Blood pressure
- Pupils
- Skin
- Oxygen saturation

Based on the story you have created, do you consider Bill a stable or an unstable patient?

Would you transport Bill to a trauma center (or request a helicopter)?

Summarize the findings from the initial information that caused you to create the patient story the way you did.

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