



BASIC TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT

Basic Pre-test

The purpose of this exam is to assess your knowledge of the concepts presented in the BTLS textbook. Please read each question carefully. Select the BEST answer from the alternatives and record your answer on the answer sheet provided. You have one (1) hour to complete this exam.

Please do not write on the exam.

- 1 . Which of the following is a "load and go" situation?
 - A. chemical burns to abdomen
 - B. gunshot wound to the foot
 - C. open fracture of tibia
 - D. flail chest

- 2 . Which one of the following statements concerning the pocket mask is TRUE?
 - A. delivers a maximum of 30 percent oxygen
 - B. delivers larger volumes than the bag-valve-mask
 - C. more difficult to use than the bag-valve-mask
 - D. poorly suited for initial ventilation of the trauma patient

- 3 . You are treating a patient who has just been severely burned on the face, neck, chest, and back. What is your first priority?
 - A. determine percent body surface burned
 - B. cover burns
 - C. assess respiratory status
 - D. treat shock

- 4 . What are the most important factors in determining injuries sustained in a fall?
 - A. distance of fall, anatomical area impacted, surface struck
 - B. anatomical area impacted, clothing worn, surface struck
 - C. distance of fall, movement during fall, underlying medical conditions
 - D. distance of fall, surface struck, underlying medical conditions

- 5 . Massive hemothorax is commonly associated with which of the following?
 - A. distended neck veins
 - B. increased breath sounds on the involved side
 - C. shock
 - D. tracheal deviation

6. In the pediatric patient, what body structure is most commonly injured during a fall from a height?
- A. extremities
 - B. abdomen
 - C. head
 - D. chest
7. In which of the following might you expect to see distended neck veins?
- A. flail chest
 - B. hemothorax
 - C. open pneumothorax
 - D. tension pneumothorax
8. A 15-year-old boy is injured after a bomb he was assembling exploded. The patient is cool and diaphoretic with weak peripheral pulses. A piece of metal is protruding 6 inches (15 cm) from his abdomen. Which one of the following is the best field approach to managing the metal in his abdomen?
- A. gently attempt to move it to see how firmly it is lodged
 - B. remove if it appears to be close to the surface
 - C. remove it regardless of how deep it is embedded
 - D. secure in place without moving it
9. Which of the following statements regarding patients infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is TRUE?
- A. healthcare workers can usually determine which patients are infected with HIV by looking at them
 - B. HIV is commonly transmitted to healthcare workers via saliva
 - C. most patients with HIV are asymptomatic and appear normal
 - D. only HIV patients with symptoms of the disease can transmit the virus to others
10. Which of the following is contained in the retroperitoneal region of the abdomen?
- A. kidney
 - B. liver
 - C. stomach
 - D. uterus
11. A 20-year-old man has his thumb amputated in a knife fight. How should the amputated part be handled?
- A. leave at the scene to aid the police in their investigation
 - B. place in a container filled with dry ice and transport to hospital
 - C. place in a cup of saline and transport to hospital
 - D. place in a plastic bag immersed in water with a few ice cubes and transport to hospital

- 12 . You respond to an adult patient who has a respiratory rate of 6 per minute. You should administer oxygen via:
- A. non-rebreather mask at 12 liters per minute
 - B. nasal cannula at 6 liters per minute
 - C. Venturi mask at 40%
 - D. bag-valve-mask
- 13 . How many liters of blood can a patient with closed (simple) fractures of both femurs potentially lose?
- A. one quarter liter
 - B. one half liter
 - C. one liter
 - D. two liters
- 14 . You are treating a 72-year-old male pedestrian stuck by a car. The patient is unresponsive with shallow respirations at 30 per minute. There is no gag reflex or radial pulses. The central pulses are present, weak and rapid. You note pelvic instability and rib fractures. Which of the following would be the best airway management for the patient?
- A. oxygen 4 L/min via nasal cannula because the patient may have COPD
 - B. oxygen 12-15 L/min via non-rebreather mask because the patient has spontaneous respirations
 - C. assist ventilations with a BVM only. Intubation is not indicated in elderly trauma because they may have dentures
 - D. assist ventilations with a BVM and basic airway adjuncts until the patient can be intubated
- 15 . A 20-year-old woman falls from a third story window. Initial assessment shows no obvious injuries. During transport her respirations increase to 36/min and her pulse rate increases to 148/min. What should you do next?
- A. perform Ongoing Exam
 - B. perform Focused Exam
 - C. perform Rapid Trauma Survey
 - D. repeat Detailed Exam
- 16 . Physiologic hyperventilation is defined as:
- A. a respiratory rate greater than 30/min
 - B. a tidal volume of greater than 800 cc
 - C. an oxygen saturation of greater than 96%
 - D. a carbon dioxide level of less than 35 mmHg
- 17 . What is the most common cause of fetal death in the pregnant trauma patient??
- A. a shock state in the mother
 - B. fetal blood loss
 - C. fetal head injury
 - D. penetrating trauma to the uterus

- 18 . What treatment is NOT indicated in the routine management of the patient with a head injury?
- A. administration of 100% oxygen
 - B. fluid resuscitation to a BP of 100-110 systolic if the patient is hypotensive
 - C. hyperventilation at rate of 20-24 per minute
 - D. stabilization of the cervical spine
- 19 . In the multiple trauma patient, when is the cervical spine first stabilized?
- A. after the airway has been managed
 - B. at the same time the airway is managed
 - C. immediately after the Primary Survey (A-B-C's)
 - D. upon determining that a head or neck injury is present
- 20 . Which of the following is the most common cause of preventable trauma death in the adult?
- A. airway obstruction
 - B. cardiac tamponade
 - C. hemorrhagic shock
 - D. spinal injury
21. A 43-year-old man is found at the scene of a motor vehicle collision sitting up and asking repeatedly, "what happened?" even after being told. According to a witness, he was unresponsive for one minute immediately after the collision. The patient has a forehead contusion, and complains of a mild headache and nausea. Neurological exam is otherwise normal and vital signs are normal. Which one of the following explanations for his behavior is your greatest concern?
- A. alcohol or drug intoxication
 - B. cerebral concussion
 - C. neurogenic shock
 - D. psychological shock
- 22 . Which of the following techniques will yield the most success when applied to an intoxicated patient?
- A. ask open-ended questions when obtaining a history
 - B. identify yourself and orient the patient often
 - C. perform procedures first, and then explain to the patient what you did
 - D. use this opportunity to educate the patient about the dangers of substance abuse
- 23 . A 4-year-old child is injured in a motor vehicle collision. The mother, who was reported to be intoxicated, fled the scene. The child has bilateral femur fractures. What should be done with the child?
- A. attempt to contact another relative to obtain permission to transport the child
 - B. treat the patient on scene and don't transport until the mother has been located and gives permission to transport her child
 - C. obtain a court order to transport the child
 - D. transport the child and document the reasons for that decision

- 24 . Which of the following trauma situations would be considered "load and go"?
- A. awake and alert patient who has blood coming out of one ear
 - B. a patient who had brief loss of consciousness but is now awake
 - C. patient with abdominal tenderness, clammy skin.
 - D. patient with tender, deformed lower leg
- 25 . Which of the following should NOT be used in the treatment of the trauma patient?
- A. bag-valve-mask
 - B. jaw thrust
 - C. nasopharyngeal airway
 - D. high pressure oxygen-powered breathing device
26. Which one of the following is most reliable in determining the presence of shock during the Initial Assessment of an injured child?
- A. blood pressure
 - B. capillary refill
 - C. comparing carotid and radial pulses
 - D. rate and quality of peripheral pulse
- 27 . Which of the following sets of vital signs is most compatible with a diagnosis of isolated head injury with increasing intracranial pressure?
- A. BP 80/60, pulse 50/min
 - B. BP 80/60, pulse 130/min
 - C. BP 170/80, pulse 50/min
 - D. BP 170/80, pulse 130/min
- 28 . An automobile has crashed into a power pole. There are high voltage wires down across the car and patients trapped inside. What should you do next?
- A. call the power company to turn off the electricity
 - B. remove patients from car, but don't touch wires
 - C. remove wires using hot stick and rubber gloves
 - D. remove wires using hot stick, rubber gloves, and rubber boots
- 29 . A 32-year-old man is involved in a motor vehicle collision. The steering wheel is noted to be bent. During your initial assessment you note his pulse is rapid and weak, and you see paradoxical movement on the anterior left chest wall during breathing. Which of the following injuries is most consistent with these findings?
- A. cardiac contusion
 - B. cardiac tamponade
 - C. flail chest
 - D. tension pneumothorax

30 . Tension pneumothorax causes what kind of shock?

- A.** cardiogenic
- B.** hypovolemic
- C.** mechanical
- D.** hypoxemic

31. A pregnant patient is found sitting behind the wheel of her wrecked car. The car is on fire. How should she be extricated?

- A.** rapid extrication
- B.** long backboard
- C.** short backboard, then long backboard
- D.** emergency rescue

32 . Maintaining spinal motion restriction throughout the assessment and preparation for transport is important because:

- A.** There is a high percentage of malpractice suits in relation to neck injuries
- B.** Additional movement may aggravate any spinal cord or column injury
- C.** Most trauma patients will have a seizure at some point
- D.** It is helpful to have someone near the head to talk to the patient

33 . Which one of the following is typically associated with EARLY shock?

- A.** ventricular dysrhythmias
- B.** hypotension
- C.** loss of 30% to 45% of blood volume
- D.** narrowed pulse pressure



BTLS - Basic Pre-Test Answer Key

Question Number	Answer	Topic	Basic Objective
1	D	Initial Assessment	2.5 - page 32, 33
2	B	Airway	4.4 - page 65
3	C	Burns	14.4a - page 208
4	A	Scene Size-up	1.11 - page 18
5	C	Thoracic Trauma	6.7 - page 84
6	C	Pediatric Trauma	15.2 - page 227
7	D	Thoracic Trauma	6.5 - page 85
8	D	Abdominal Trauma	12.2g - page 182
9	C	Blood/Fluid Precautions	20.1 - page 272
10	A	Abdominal Trauma	11.1 - page 173
11	D	Extremity Trauma	12.2c - page 182
12	D	Airway	4.4 - page 62
13	D	Extremity Trauma	12.3 - page 181
14	D	Elderly	16.3 - page 246
15	A	Initial Assessment	2.7 - page 33
16	D	Airway	4.2a - page 63
17	A	Trauma In Pregnancy	17.5 - page 256
18	C	Head Trauma	8.6 - page 113
19	B	Initial Assessment	2.1 - page 28
20	C	Shock	7.4 - page 99
21	B	Head Trauma	8.2 - page 115
22	B	Substance Abuse	18.2 - page 265
23	D	Pediatric Trauma	15.4 - page 225
24	C	Initial Assessment	2.5 - page 32
25	D	Airway	4.4 - page 63
26	D	Pediatric Trauma	15.3 - page 230
27	C	Head Trauma	8.5 - page 113
28	A	Burns	14.4c - page 217
29	c	Thoracic Trauma	6.8 - page 86
30	C	Shock	7.4 - page 100
31	D	Spinal Trauma	9.5 - page 134
32	B	Spinal Trauma	9.3 - page 137
33	D	Shock	7.2 - page 98



BASIC TRAUMA LIFE SUPPORT

Pre-Test Answer Sheet

_____ %

NAME: _____

COURSE DATE & LOCATION: _____

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| 2. | a | b | c | d | 26. | a | b | c | d |
| 3. | a | b | c | d | 27. | a | b | c | d |
| 4. | a | b | c | d | 28. | a | b | c | d |
| 5. | a | b | c | d | 29. | a | b | c | d |
| 6. | a | b | c | d | 30. | a | b | c | d |
| 7. | a | b | c | d | 31. | a | b | c | d |
| 8. | a | b | c | d | 32. | a | b | c | d |
| 9. | a | b | c | d | 33. | a | b | c | d |
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