



Introducing health sciences: paramedics

A road traffic accident

Paramedic:

Sir, keeping looking at me. We're from the ambulance service. My colleague is going to come into your car to check your head.

Paramedic 1

The first course of action is scene safety. That's to myself, to my colleagues, and to the patient. So it's important our safety is our paramount concern.

Paramedic 2

After you've done the safety aspect, you can then approach the vehicle and actually talk to the patient. Making sure they keep looking straight out of the window. And some of them get in behind to support the head.

Paramedic 1

Ok Jim, airways clear. Jim, I want to rapidly assess you to find any internal bleeding, or any life threatening injuries.

Paramedic 1

The first priority is when assessing a patient that's been exposed to trauma, would be to ensure that their airway breathing and circulation are all in tact and functioning. The first thing is checking the airway. Ensuring that the airway is clear, open and will remain clear and open. Secondly, would be breathing. Ensure that the patient is breathing. So that's rapid chest auscultation. That's listening to the patient's chest with a stethoscope to ensure air entry into both lungs. Thirdly, be circulation. To establish a, their pulses. and to see whether they're bleeding from any external or internal sites.

Paramedic 1

When I feel your abdomen Jim, tell me if it hurts.

Jim

Oh yes. That's painful.

Paramedic 1

Okay sir. Just once more.

Jim

Oh yes, alright

Paramedic 1

Okay sir. Okay. He's got very tender on his right abdomen. I am going to check your hips there sir. Check your femurs, your big long bones. Lovely. Any pain in your legs at all? Your top part of your legs.

Jim

Just my bottom leg.

Paramedic 1

Okay. You've got an obvious open tib and fib on the right hand side. Andy, this is a time critical. Internal haemorrhage in his abdomen. I am going to request a second vehicle. Okay. Okay, Jim, I won't be a moment.

Marcus Bailey

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The golden hour in the role of the paramedic it's the first sixty minutes from the time of an incident to the time of the patient receiving definitive care. It's usually with inside a hospital. From the paramedics' perspective, they would look for the platinum ten minutes. And the platinum ten minutes is from arrival on scene to actually loading the patient for transport to hospital. Within that ten minutes, that's where they would identify key things around life threatening conditions, focussing simply on airway, breathing and circulation.