**History**
- Submersion in water regardless of depth
- Possible history of trauma ie: diving board
- Duration of immersion
- Temperature of water or possibility of hypothermia
- Degree of water contamination

**Signs and Symptoms**
- Unresponsive
- Mental status changes
- Decreased or absent vital signs
- Vomiting
- Coughing
- Apnea
- Stridor
- Wheezing
- Rales

**Differential**
- Trauma
- Pre-existing medical problem
- Pressure injury (diving)
- Barotrauma
- Decompression sickness
- Post-immersion syndrome

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**Pearls**
- **Recommended Exam:** Trauma Survey, Head, Neck, Chest, Abdomen, Pelvis, Back, Extremities, Skin, Neuro
- **Drowning** is a leading cause of death among would-be rescuers.
- **Allow appropriately trained and certified rescuers to remove victims from areas of danger.**
- Have a high index of suspicion for possible spinal injuries
- With cold water no time limit -- resuscitate all. These patients have an increased chance of survival.
- Hypothermia is often associated with drowning and submersion injuries.
- All victims should be transported for evaluation due to potential for worsening over the next several hours.
- With pressure injuries (decompression / barotrauma), consider transport to or availability of a hyperbaric chamber.