

Revised 09/29/2017

Any local EMS System changes to this document must follow the NC OEMS Protocol Change Policy and be approved by OEMS



Pearls

- Recommended Exam: Mental Status, Skin, Heart, Lungs, Abdomen, Back, Extremities, Neuro
- Lowest blood pressure by age: < 31 days: > 60 mmHg. 31 days to 1 year: > 70 mmHg. Greater than 1 year: 70 + 2 x age in years.
- Consider all possible causes of shock and treat per appropriate protocol. Majority of decompensation in pediatrics is airway related.
- Decreasing heart rate and hypotension occur late in children and are signs of imminent cardiac arrest.
- Shock may be present with a normal blood pressure initially.
- Shock often is present with normal vital signs and may develop insidiously. Tachycardia may be the only manifestation.
- Consider all possible causes of shock and treat per appropriate protocol.

Hypovolemic Shock;

Hemorrhage, trauma, GI bleeding, ruptured aortic aneurysm or pregnancy-related bleeding.

- <u>Cardiogenic Shock:</u>
 - Heart failure: MI, Cardiomyopathy, Myocardial contusion, Ruptured ventrical / septum / valve / toxins.
- Distributive Shock:
 - <u>Septic</u>
 - Anaphylactic

Neurogenic: Hallmark is warm, dry, pink skin with normal capillary refill time and typically alert.

- Toxic
- Obstructive Shock:

Pericardial tamponade. Pulmonary embolus. Tension pneumothorax.

Signs may include hypotension with distended neck veins, tachycardia, unilateral decreased breath sounds or muffled heart sounds.

Acute Adrenal Insufficiency or Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia:

Body cannot produce enough steroids (glucocorticoids / mineralocorticoids.) May have primary or secondary adrenal disease, congenital adrenal hyperplasia, or more commonly have stopped a steroid like prednisone. Injury or illness may precipitate. Usually hypotensive with nausea, vomiting, dehydration and / or abdominal pain. If suspected Paramedic should give Methylprednisolone 125 mg IM / IV / IO or Dexamethasone 10 mg IM / IV / IO. Use steroid agent specific to your drug list. May administer prescribed steroid carried by patient IM / IV / IO. Patient may have Hydrocortisone (Cortef or Solu-Cortef). Dose: < 1y.o. give 25 mg, 1-12 y.o. give 50 mg, and > 12 y.o. give 100 mg or dose specified by patient's physician.