

## Case A: Pre-test

**Setting:** Emergency Department

### **Patient Information**

**Name:** Bart Irons

**Gender:** M

**Age:** 12

**Reason for visit:** Pedestrian struck

**Medical Profile:** Healthy 12-year-old male, victim of bike/car accident this morning. A car struck him from behind, and he was not wearing a helmet.

**Survivor Present:** Grandparent Mr. or Mrs. Irons (paternal grandparent)

**Background:** Grandparent has been staying with Bart and his younger sister for two days while the father is away on business. It is a teacher workday, and Bart was riding bikes with a friend. The friend was not injured but did witness the accident. The grandparent arrived at the hospital a few minutes after the ambulance arrived and has been in the private waiting area for about 30 minutes. The grandparent has received an initial update and is aware that Bart has experienced severe trauma to his head and that his prognosis is poor.

### **Patient's Present Condition:**

Bart was brought to the ED as a Code Red trauma "Ped struck by Car." EMS estimates that he was struck by a car traveling at about 45-55 mph and thrown from his bike. He landed approximately 30 feet from the point of initial impact. Field assessment per EMS revealed multiple extremity, facial and head injuries as well as extensive skin loss secondary to being thrown from his bike and then skidding across the pavement. The patient was unconscious. CPR was initiated, and the patient was administered epi via the femoral line. The heart rate did not respond, and soon after CPR was initiated, spontaneous heart activity stopped. Fluid and blood transfusion continued via the Level One Rapid Infuser at the rate of 1 liter per 1.5 minutes. Due to failure to respond to full trauma code measures for more than 35 minutes and the overwhelming nature of the head injury, the resuscitation was called 50 minutes after arrival in the ED. The patient had received 10 rounds of epi, 18 liters of LR in the ED + 2 in the field for a total of 20 liters of fluid. In addition, the patient was administered 6 units of packed red blood cells and 2 6-packs of platelets. He was declared dead at 11:23 am.

### **Task to be completed:**

1. You have 10 minutes to inform the grandparent of Bart's death and answer any questions he/she may have.

## Case B: Formative training session

**Setting:** Emergency Department

### Patient Information

**Name:** Frank Sumner

**Gender:** M

**Age:** 72

**Reason for visit:** Cardiac arrest

**Medical Profile:** Active 72-year-old male, with no significant history other than hypertension, collapsed while playing golf this morning. He had complained of numbness in extremities the previous day.

**Survivor Present:** Sibling with whom he was playing golf; accompanied patient to hospital via ambulance.

**Background:** Sibling was with Frank this morning. They had been playing golf for less than one hour when the patient collapsed in the golf cart. The survivor called 911 immediately, as Frank was not answering his questions. The sibling has been waiting in the private waiting area for about 15 minutes and has not had a recent update.

### **Patient's Present Condition:**

The sibling of Frank Sumner followed the ambulance in their private vehicle to the hospital. The patient (Frank) collapsed and has since died from what appears to be a massive stroke.

Upon arrival by EMS, the patient was unresponsive and was experiencing an active seizure. After the seizure resolved, it was noted that the eyes were deviated to the L, and the patient responded to deep painful stimuli with decerebrate posturing.

En route to the hospital, the patient became bradycardic and atropine 0.5 mg was administered. The patient did not respond, and he was noted to have seizure-like activity and become totally apneic then asystolic. ACLS algorithm for asystole was followed and the patient delivered to the ED in Full Arrest. The code was continued in the ED without success. The patient was pronounced dead 15 minutes after arrival in the ED.

### **Task to be completed:**

1. You have 15 minutes to inform the sibling of Frank's death and answer any questions he/she may have.

## Case C: Post test

**Setting:** Emergency Department

### **Patient Information**

**Name:** Eric Fromme

**Gender:** M

**Age:** 16

**Reason for visit:** Rollover motor vehicle collision

**Medical Profiles:** Two healthy sixteen-year-old high-school twins were in an accident this morning. The SUV, driven by **Chuck Fromme**, dodged a deer and overturned at least twice and landed on the passenger side where **Eric Fromme** was seated. Chuck sustained multiple facial lacerations, two broken legs, and a collapsed lung. Eric sustained severe head trauma and a broken right leg.

**Survivor Present:** Mr. or Mrs. Fromme, parents of Chuck and Eric.

**Background:** Mr./Mrs. Fromme saw Chuck and Eric off to school this morning. Mr./Mrs. Fromme was contacted by phone this morning and told that his/her sons had been taken to the Emergency Department as a result of an automobile accident. Upon arriving at the hospital, Mr./Mrs. Fromme was informed that Chuck was stable but that Eric's condition was critical. Mr./Mrs. Fromme gave permission for surgery to relieve pressure on Eric's brain. There has been no update in the past 30 minutes.

### **Patients' Present Condition:**

**Chuck Fromme:** Chuck was extricated from the driver's seat of the vehicle with obvious fractures of the L femur and the right ankle. Immediately upon arrival in the ED, a L chest tube was placed for poor vital signs and he had improvement. His femur was placed in a Hare traction splint, and he was prepped for the OR by Ortho. Mr./Mrs. Fromme have seen Chuck and are aware that he is considered in stable condition at this time.

**Eric Fromme:** Eric was extricated from the passenger's seat of the vehicle with signs of closed head injury. He exhibited decorticate posturing and did not respond to verbal or painful stimuli. Blood and CSF were streaming from his nose. Upon arrival in the ED, he was immediately intubated with RSI. Neurosurgery elected to perform a ventriculostomy, and during the procedure Eric became progressively bradycardic. He arrested, and the resuscitation attempt failed to return him to a spontaneous cardiac rhythm. He was pronounced dead one hour after entering the trauma room.

### **Tasks to be completed:**

1. You have 10 minutes to inform the host parent of Eric's death and answer any questions he/she may have. (Chuck, the son, is being prepared for surgery on his legs and is responding well.)