



SECONDARY SURVEY IN THE FIELD

The secondary survey is a systematic head to toe examination that should be modified according to patient type/status. Pertinent information should be documented on the prehospital care report.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) only assessment elements are underlined and bolded.

Assessment includes:

- Chief complaint/mechanism of injury
- Pertinent medical history, medications, allergies
- Head to toe assessment
- Neurological assessment
- Vital signs
- Securing copies of pertinent medical records, laboratory results, and x-rays during an interfacility transport.

- **Obtain pertinent patient history:**
 - History of current illness.
 - Previous medical history.
 - Current medications.
 - Known allergies.

- **Obtain vital signs:**
 - Blood pressure.
 - Pulse rate, quality, regularity.
 - Respiratory rate.

- **Examine the head:**
 - Tenderness.
 - Depressions, deformities, hematomas.
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
 - Battle’s sign or “raccoon’s eyes”.
 - Drainage from nose, ears, mouth.

- **Examine the facial region:**
 - Symmetry of face.
 - Stability or asymmetry of facial bones, orbits, mandible, maxilla.
 - Pain, deformity, crepitus.
 - Eyes:
 - * vision (“can you see me”)
 - * periorbital edema
 - * pupil reaction to light
 - * pupil size (symmetric)
 - * abnormal gaze
 - * sclera color
 - * presence of contact lenses
 - * obvious eye injury
 - * discharge

Approved:

TxGuide2015:
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- Nares
 - * nasal flaring with breathing
 - * drainage
- Mouth:
 - * mucous membranes
 - * loose teeth, dentures
 - * blood, foreign body or material
 - * presence of gag reflex
 - * sputum color, amount, consistency
- **Examine the neck:**
 - Tenderness, deformity, crepitus.
 - Soft tissue injuries.
 - Penetrating injuries.
 - Neck vein distention.
 - Tracheal deviation.
 - Subcutaneous emphysema.
 - Accessory muscle use.
 - MedicAlert identification tag.
- **Examine the chest:**
 - General chest dimensions.
 - Symmetry of movement.
 - Retractions with breathing.
 - Tenderness, deformity of clavicle, sternum, ribs.
 - Assess for implanted medical devices (pacemakers, automatic implanted defibrillators)
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
 - Scars.
 - Penetrating injuries.
 - Subcutaneous emphysema.
 - Abnormal breathing pattern.
 - **Breath sounds.**
- **Examine the abdomen:**
 - Tenderness.
 - Referred pain.
 - Distention, rigidity.
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
 - Scars.
 - Penetrating injuries.
 - **Pulsating masses.**
 - **Ascites.**
 - Exaggerated abdominal use during respiration.
- **Examine the pelvis:**
 - Tenderness.
 - Stability (compression, symphysis pubis and iliac crests).
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
 - Incontinence/Genital (penile or vaginal) bleeding.
 - Priapism.
 - **Equality of femoral pulses.**

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Snodgrass".

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- **Examine the extremities:**
 - Tenderness, deformity, crepitus.
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations, track marks.
 - Penetrating injuries.
 - Distal circulatory, sensory and motor function.
 - Edema
 - MedicAlert identification tag.
- **Examine the back:**
 - Pain, deformity.
 - Contusions, abrasions, lacerations.
 - Penetrating injuries.
 - Sacral edema.
- **Neurological examination:**
 - Orientation.
 - Abnormal posturing.
 - Level of consciousness.
 - AVPU System (see primary survey)

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)	
Eye-opening response	
Spontaneous	4
To speech	3
To pain	2
None	1
Verbal response*	
Oriented	5
Confused conversation	4
Inappropriate words	3
Incomprehensible words	2
None	1
Best upper-limb motor response	
Spontaneous/obeys commands	6
Localizes pain	5
Withdrawal to pain	4
Flexion to pain	3
Extension to pain	2
None	1
TOTAL	3-15

***Note:** Children < 2 years of age should receive full verbal score for crying after stimulation.

Approved:



* Burn Assessment:

* Rule of Nines

Adult

vs.

Pediatric Burns

	Child			
	Age in Years			
	0	1	5	10
A 1/2 of head	9%	8%	6%	5%
B 1/2 of one thigh	2%	3%	4%	4%
C 1/2 of one leg	2%	2%	2%	3%

Approved:

