

RESPIRATORY EMERGENCIES

Revised 3/1/2000

r-4 RESPIRATORY ARREST

PRIORITIES:

- ABCs
- Determine degree of physiologic distress:
 - Respiratory rate >20, use of accessory muscles, cyanosis, inadequate ventilation, depressed level of consciousness
- Maintain airway, provide oxygen and ventilatory support;
- Determine which causes best fit patient signs and symptoms, initiate treatment;
- Assure an advanced life support response;

Respiratory Distress

Absence of spontaneous ventilations without cardiac arrest, consider narcotic overdose..

1. Ensure a patent airway (suction as necessary);
2. Be prepared to support ventilation with appropriate airway adjuncts;
3. OXYGEN THERAPY – should be in addition to ventilation provided by appropriate airway adjuncts;
4. Assist advanced life support personnel with patient packaging and movement to ambulance after the unit arrives.