

# Just-In-Time Learning Series: INITIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TRAUMA PATIENT



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## GROUP TRIAGE

### SALT Mass Casualty Triage Algorithm

1. Sort
2. Assess
3. Lifesaving Interventions
4. Treatment/Transport

## GLOBAL SORTING

**WALK:** Patients capable of walking to a designated area will often be labeled “green” and should be assessed 3rd.

**WAVE:** Patients capable of a purposeful movement will often be labeled “yellow” and should be assessed 2nd. These patients are conscious but may be injured in a way that is not critical.

**STILL:** Patients do not respond to commands to “walk” or “wave” and are often designated “red” or “black”, requiring immediate individual triage.

## INDIVIDUAL TRIAGE

### Primary Survey:

*\*Intervene if necessary (e.g. intubation, thoracostomy, transfusion) before moving to the next step.*

**AIRWAY:** Assess for airway obstruction

**BREATHING:** Assess for adequacy of oxygenation and ventilation

**CIRCULATION:** Assess for adequacy of perfusion, stop external and external bleeding, establish IV access, administer fluids if indicated

**DISABILITY:** Assess for altered mental status (Glasgow Coma Score) and focal neurologic deficit

**EXPOSURE:** Assess for vascular compromise to extremities and hidden signs of trauma, keep the patient warm

### Secondary Survey:

Gather more history, repeat head-to-toe exam, obtain diagnostic tests (e.g. radiology and labs), perform non-life-saving procedures

## TRANSPORT

If transportation is not readily available, utilize the time by conducting re-evaluations of patients at the site.

Once a patient can be transported, any remaining diagnostic tests should be deprioritized in favor of transporting the patient to definitive care.

REFERENCES: Adapted from: SALT mass casualty triage: concept endorsed by the American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, American Trauma Society, National Association of EMS Physicians, National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium, and State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association. Disaster Med Public Health Prep. 2008 Dec;2(4):245-6. Adapted from: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS®): Tenth Edition. 2018.

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