

Hiking Fall - Scrambling

MedWAR Team: Arrives on scene as a group of med students on their own overnight rafting trip.

A 27 y/o male hiking on a ridge during an overnight rafting trip down the Chattooga River fell while climbing up a loose vertical cliff band approx. 15 ft in height. His group heard the resulting rockfall and responded to the scene within a minute of the fall to find the patient unresponsive, positioned on his side on the slope below. The Pt was found at some distance from the base of the cliff indicating he had tumbled in the fall.

Scene Survey – make sure no falling rocks, hazards
Unresponsive patient

Primary Survey

M – bleeding wound on back of head

A – stabilize/maintain airway

R – rapid shallow respirations

C – pulse rapid and difficult to palpate radially; skin pale, cool, clammy

H – helicopter unable to get to this location, must be transported to a safer location

Secondary Survey

S – unresponsive

A – unknown

M – unknown

P – unknown

L – unknown

E – 20ft fall

AVPU - U

Blood Sweep

3in full depth laceration at base of skull; No CARTS

Assessment & Plan

Unresponsive – stabilize airway

Respiratory failure – monitor, immobilize, evacuate

Bleeding wound back of head – direct pressure then bandage

Evacuation Plan

Patient must be transported back down to the base of the river where an emergency helicopter can safely extract patient; radio to ranger station

Resolution

Helicopter flew into the widest section of the base of the river just below the rescuers. The patient was loaded into a litter suspended below the helicopter and short-hauled to an intermediate landing zone for transfer to an air medical helicopter and a flight to the hospital

Grading Rubric

	Total Points	Points Awarded
Scene Survey	1	
Primary Survey – MARCH	1	
Secondary Survey – SAMPLE	1	
Ongoing Survey – AVPU – no changes only needed once	1	
Blood Sweep	1	
Call for evacuation	1	
C-spine stabilized and maintained	2	
Direct pressure on head wound until bleeding slows and can be bandaged	2	
Head wound irrigated & bandaged	1	
Patient safely transported to helicopter extraction site w/ continued c-spine precautions	1	

Learning Goals

Unresponsive patient

c-spine stabilization & transportation