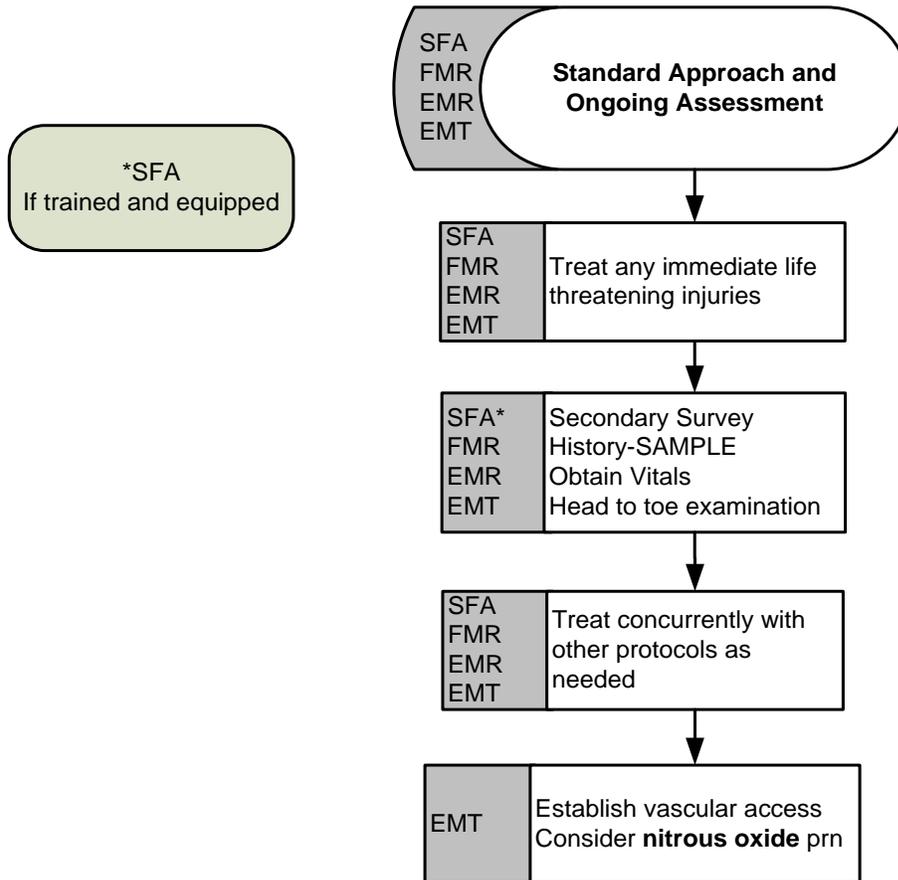


Algorithm 27 Trauma Assessment



Injuries to Bone, Joint and Muscle

Bone Injury

Injuries to bones are often very painful and depending on the location of the injury may prevent them from being able to move. Patients should be encouraged to lie still so that they don't cause further injury to the surrounding tissue. Fractures to large bones run the risk of causing major blood loss so monitor for signs of shock.

Joint Injury

Likewise, an injury to a joint may require that the patient not move until medical assistance is available.

Muscle Injury

Muscle injuries can also be very painful but likely won't prevent the patient from being able to move the affected area. You can still encourage the patient not to move or put strain of the area until assessed by medical staff.

Patient Care

Stabilize the affected area using your hands to hold the extremity (pad with a pillow or blanket)

Cover any open wounds with dry dressings (apply gentle direct pressure to steady bleeding)

Apply ice or cold pack to the injuries area ensuring that a towel or cloth is between the skin and the cold compress

Elevate if able to do so (if in too much pain, then leave in the position found)

Splint only if EMS will be delayed or patient needs to be moved before their arrival

Note:

In addition to assessing DCAP BLS TIC, check for a distal pulse, skin temperature and colour. It is very important to document and report to EMS your findings of the injured limb as once it is bandaged or splinted it will be covered.