Chest, Abdominal, and Pelvic Injuries

For Your Review
Read Chapter 15 of Emergency Care, then complete the following activities.

Key Terms
Referring to Emergency Care, define the following terms:

Abdominal aortic aneurysm: _____________________________________________

Flail chest: ___________________________________________________________

Hemothorax: __________________________________________________________

Occlusive dressing: ____________________________________________________

Pneumothorax: ________________________________________________________

Sternum: ______________________________________________________________

Sucking chest wound: ___________________________________________________

Tension pneumothorax: _________________________________________________

Do You Know…

1. Signs and Symptoms
   Circle the signs and symptoms most often associated with chest injuries, underline those most often associated with abdominal and/or pelvic injuries, and put a square around those associated with all three.

   Nausea and vomiting  Pale skin
   Thirst  Coughing up blood
   Weakness  Obvious deformity
   Difficulty breathing (dyspnea)  Protruding organs
   Tenderness in the abdomen  Pain at the injury site that increases with
   Flushed skin  deep breathing or
   Bluish skin  movement
   Bruising

   What Would You Do?
   Read the following scenarios and answer the questions below.

Scenario 1
You arrive at the scene where a hunter has mistakenly been shot in the chest. He is lying on his back, and there is blood coming through his jacket. He is gasping for air. Upon getting closer, you hear a gurgling sound coming from his rib cage.

1. You suspect the bullet has caused a:
   a. Fractured rib
   b. Sucking chest wound
   c. Flail chest
   d. Kidney perforation

2. You expose the chest and see a hole in the man’s left side. You do not see any other wounds on the chest or abdomen, nor do you see blood coming from anywhere else. You cover the hole with your gloved hand until you are able to cover the wound with:
   a. Sterile gauze
   b. An adhesive bandage
   c. An occlusive dressing
   d. A triangular bandage
3. Using the covering you chose in the previous question, how would you bandage this injury and why?

4. If air enters the pleural space, what condition may occur?
   a. Flail chest
   b. Hemothorax
   c. Abdominal aortic aneurysm
   d. Pneumothorax

Scenario 2
A teenaged boy has been stabbed in the abdomen. He is conscious, although barely, and is breathing without difficulty. His skin is pale and sweaty, and he is complaining of thirst. You see blood running down his side onto the ground beneath him. As you get close, you see a large wound just above his navel, and there is part of an organ protruding from the wound.

1. Which of the following should you do?
   a. Cover the abdomen
   b. Administer oxygen
   c. Remove clothing from around the wound
   d. All of the above

2. When covering the wound, which of the following should you do?
   a. Apply direct pressure
   b. Moisten the dressings first
   c. Reinsert the organs into the abdominal cavity
   d. Place a layer of plastic wrap on the abdomen first

3. The area should be treated as a crime scene. T or F

Test Your Knowledge
Circle the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. Someone with a pelvic injury should be immobilized on a backboard. T or F

2. If someone receives a penetrating trauma about 5 cm (2 in.) below the navel, which organ is most likely to be injured?
   a. Pancreas
   b. Gallbladder
   c. Bladder
   d. Liver

3. A fractured pelvis may lead to the inability to move or feel the legs. What other injury may cause the same condition?
   a. Injury to the lower spine
   b. Rupture of the spleen
   c. Fracture of the femur
   d. Heart attack

4. If you see the abdomen pulsating, you should:
   a. Count the number of pulses per minute
   b. Push on the four quadrants of the abdomen to determine the origin of the pulsating
   c. Treat for shock and internal bleeding
   d. Roll the patient into the recovery position

5. Hemothorax is caused by which of the following entering the pleural space?
   a. Digestive enzymes
   b. Blood
   c. Hematocrit
   d. Tissue

6. When treating someone with a closed abdominal injury, the patient’s legs should be:
   a. Bent with knees pulled towards the chest
   b. Extended straight
   c. Raised approximately 15 cm (6 in.)
   d. Slightly bent with a blanket under the knees

7. To treat flail chest, you should:
   a. Apply bulky dressings to the flail segment
   b. Tightly bind the patient’s arm to the chest
   c. Have the patient lie on her right side
   d. Bind the entire chest, ensuring you do not restrict breathing

8. If the abdomen is struck with a blunt object, there may be damage to the spleen. This may result in:
   a. Infection
   b. Gastroenteritis
   c. Severe blood loss
   d. Difficulty breathing (dyspnea)