

Aaron's New York State EMT Exam - Study Guide

Item #	Topic	Study Item
1	A&P	Abdominal quadrants - organs in each: RU (Liver), LU (Stomach, Spleen), RL (Appendix)
2	A&P	Spinal column -- names of sections and number of vertebrae in each (Cervical - 7, Thoracic - 12, Lumbar - 5, Sacral - 5, Coccygeal - 4)
3	A&P	Sections of brain: skull, cranium, unique parts of infant head: Fontanel. Sunken: (hypovolemic) shock. Bulging: Intracranial pressure.
4	A&P	Flexion vs. extension
5	A&P	Supine vs. prone
6	A&P	Proximal vs. Distal and examples: Knee is proximal to ankle; wrist is distal to elbow.
7	A&P	Tendons/Ligaments/Muscles/Cartilage/Joint - functions of each
8	A&P	A&P of respiratory system: Mouth, nose, oropharynx, nasopharynx, epiglottis, trachea, bronchi (3 on right, 2 on left), bronchioles, alveoli, diaphragm.
9	A&P	A&P of heart: Mechanical: Atria, ventricles, tricuspid valve, mitral valves. Electrical: SA node, AV node, Bundle of HIS, Bundle Branches, Purkinje fibers.
10	A&P	A&P of circulatory system (Veins, arteries, capillaries, one way valves...)
11	A&P	Pulmonary Vein & Pulmonary artery - what's unique?
12	A&P	Anterior/Posterior/Superior/Inferior
13	A&P	Volume of blood in the typical adult - in pints and quarts/liters: 10-12 pints; 5-6 quarts/liters.
14	A&P	Three main components of blood and their main function: Red (erythrocytes) - carries O2; White (Leukocytes) - fights infection; Platelets - promotes clotting.
15	A&P	Central Nervous System vs. Peripheral Nervous System: Central: Brain & spinal cord; Peripheral: everything else.
16	A&P	Visceral vs. Parietal "membranes" (e.g. pleura, peritoneum...): Visceral covers organs; Parietal covers the cavity containing the organs.
17	A&P	3 Main parts of brain (Cerebrum, Cerebellum, Medulla - Brainstem):
18	A&P	3 layers ("membranes") covering the brain?: Meninges (Dura Mater, Pia Mater, Arachnoid)
19	Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis - signs, treatment with EpiPen autoinjector: SOB, tachycardia, hypotension, (Periorbital edema, hives)
20	Anaphylaxis	Anaphylaxis - what body systems are affected? Respiratory, cardiovascular, skin, (GI)
21	Anaphylaxis	EpiPen administration - procedure?

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22	Anaphylaxis	What is the action of epinephrine on the respiratory system? Reduce swelling and dilates the airway components
23	Anaphylaxis	What is the action of epinephrine on the cardiovascular system? Constricts the arterioles and arteries - Increases BP.
24	Anaphylaxis	Side effects of epinephrine? Death, agitation, tachycardia
25	Burns	Burns: Degrees, Treatment by degree, Rule of Nines - adult vs. pediatric, Thermal/Electrical/Chemical and treatments
26	Cardiac	Nitroglycerin action: Dilates coronary arteries.
27	Cardiac	What is the first drug we use for a patient with cardiac related chest pain? Oxygen - YES it is a drug.
28	Cardiac	Ischemia vs. Infarction: Ischemia - temporary and reversible effects on tissue due to hypoxia; infarction: Permanent death of tissues.
29	Cardiac	Controllable vs. Uncontrollable AMI risks
30	Cardiac	Angina vs. AMI - definition and treatment:
31	Cardiac	Most common cause of death early post-AMI? Arrhythmias (VFIB, VTACH)
32	Cardiac	Signs of pulmonary edema - treatment options: Severe SOB especially when lying down; tachycardia, tachypnea, cool, pale, diaphoretic skin. Treatment: Sit up straight, legs off the side of bed, O2 (NRB or BVM), ALS, Rapid Transport.
33	Cardiac	Pedal edema - treatment? None in the prehospital phase. Controlled with diuretics like Lasix/Bumex.
34	Cardiac	Two heart rhythm names that an AED will recommend a shock? Ventricular Fibrillation, Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia
35	CPR/Airway/Breathing	CPR Rates: At least 100/minute
36	CPR/Airway/Breathing	CPR Ratios compressions to breaths by age: One person: All ages: 30:2. Two person: Adult: 30:2; Child/Infant: 15:2
37	CPR/Airway/Breathing	CPR depths: Adult: At least 2"; Child: At least 1/3 of the chest depth; approximately 2"; infants: At least 1/3 of the chest depth; approximately 1.5".
38	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Choking treatment conscious: Abdominal thrusts (Heimlich); Except in infants (chest thrusts/back blows). "Pop until they drop".
39	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Choking treatment unconscious: CPR. Check every 2 minutes if FB is seen; attempt to sweep out; attempt ventilation if removed; continue CPR.
40	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Suction - procedure; maximum time to suction: Suction only when removing catheter; No more than 15 seconds; only suction as far as you can see.
41	CPR/Airway/Breathing	NPA Contraindications: Suspected head injury (based on MOI or seeing CSF leaking from nose or ears).

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42	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Stimulus to breath - normal person vs. COPD: Normal: Excess CO₂ in blood detected by brain; COPD: Hypoxia detected by brain.
43	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Oxygen delivery devices - free flow vs. positive pressure: Free flow: Nasal Cannula, nonrebreather, Venturi mask. Positive Pressure: BVM, Pocket Mask.
44	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Types of airway adjuncts (OPA, NPA , Suction) procedures for use and sizing OPA/NPA
45	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Patient with OPA gags - procedure?: Remove it and do not try again (try an NPA).
46	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Safe Residual pressure of an oxygen tank (200PSI)
47	CPR/Airway/Breathing	PISS: Pin Index Safety System
48	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Percentage of oxygen in room air? (and therefore, what % of O ₂ does a patient being "bagged" with no O ₂ attached receive?): 21%
49	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Percentage of oxygen in exhaled air? (and therefore, what % of O ₂ does a patient being ventilated with a pocket mask with no O ₂ attached receive?): 16%
50	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Dyspniac patient is losing consciousness - treatment?: Assure open airway; BVM
51	CPR/Airway/Breathing	Two scenarios where you must do CPR compressions on a live person?: Newborn resuscitation; Infant/Child with HR<60.
52	Diabetes/AMS	Glucose & Energy - alternative fuel source: Fat
53	Diabetes/AMS	Hypoglycemia - definition, signs: Low Blood Sugar; AMS, agitation, seizures, tremors, stroke-like symptoms.
54	Diabetes/AMS	Types of diabetic emergencies - basic causes: Hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) - eats too much and does not take insulin..., Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) - Takes insulin and does not eat enough; excessive exercise; vomits a meal....
55	Diabetes/AMS	Diabetes - 2 types: Type I: Insulin Dependent (Juvenile onset); Type II: Non-Insulin Dependent (Adult onset).
56	Diabetes/AMS	Hypoglycemia - causes, most reliable sign, assessment, treatment: AMS. Need sugar. If they can protect their own airway (they can hold the cup of soda and drink themselves). ALS, transport.
57	Diabetes/AMS	Hypoglycemic patient who cannot hold and drink a source of sugar on their own - treatment?: ABCs and rapid transport (ALS)
58	Diabetes/AMS	Altered Mental Status ("AMS") - causes?: Hypoxia, hypoglycemia, seizures, fever (especially in elderly), stroke, shock...
59	Environmental	Hypothermia stages
60	Environmental	Dehydration - signs/treatment: Signs of hypovolemic shock; If due to heat - remove from heat source; O₂, ALS, Transport.
61	Environmental	Hypothermia patient - how long to check for a pulse: Up to 45 seconds.

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62	Environmental	Heat exhaustion vs. heat stroke - distinguishing signs/treatment: Wet skin vs. Dry skin: The change can happen suddenly and may be subtle. Remove from heat source; treat for shock PRN; ALS, rapid transport; For heat stroke - active cooling with AC.
63	Medical-Legal	Expressed Consent: Consent given by mentally competent, conscious adult.
64	Medical-Legal	Implied consent - typical example: Unconscious patient.
65	Medical-Legal	Children and consent - who can consent? What is done in a life-threatening emergency?: Only parent or court appointed guardian can give consent. Life saving treatment can be done until stable or parent arrives.
66	Medical-Legal	Negligence - definition: Failure to act as properly as another similarly trained EMT would be expected to act.
67	Medical-Legal	Negligence - what 3 items must be demonstrated to prove negligence?: Had duty to act; breach of duty; proximal cause.
68	Medical-Legal	Which EMT has the duty to act?: Paid EMT, on-duty, dispatched to a call.
69	Medical-Legal	Abandonment: Leaving a patient in the care of someone with a lower level of training than yourself.
70	Medical-Legal	Good Samaritan Law
71	Medical-Legal	What law gives the EMT the right to Act? (Article 30 of the Public Health Law - used to be a state exam favorite).
72	Neurological	Seizures - definition of aura; types; causes; treatments: Causes: Idiopathic, toxins, tumors, infection, trauma, metabolic, hypoxia, hypoglycemia. Treatment is aimed at preventing injury; protecting the airway and rapid transport. ALS.
73	Neurological	Most common cause of pediatric seizures: Fever ("Febrile seizures")
74	Neurological	Autonomic Nervous System: Controls "automatic" body functions like breathing, heartbeat, digestion...
75	Neurological	Sympathetic vs. Parasympathetic nervous system: Sympathetic - generally speeds up critical body functions like HR, RR, increases BP, "flight and fright" nervous system. Parasympathetic - generally slows down critical body functions like HR. Promotes digestion. "Feed and Breed" nervous system.
76	Neurological	Stroke ("CVA"): two types; typical signs; TIA vs. CVA; treatment: Thrombotic vs. hemorrhagic. S/S: Garbled speech, one-sided paralysis, vision changes, AMS, unequal pupils, seizures...
77	Neurological	Seizures: Types; typical causes; treatment: Simple Partial/Complex Partial/Absence/Tonic-Clonic.
78	Neurological	"Tonic-Clonic" seizure: Phases and what such a patient will exhibit by phase?: Aura, Stiffening (30 seconds), violent shaking (3-5 minutes), "post-ictal (generally sleepy or sleeping).
79	OB/Gyn	Eclampsia/Pre-eclampsia
80	OB/Gyn	Crowning - definition: Head visible in the vaginal opening - typically the size of a half-dollar.

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81	OB/Gyn	Normal blood loss during delivery: 500ml (same as 500cc or 1/2 liter)
82	OB/Gyn	Anatomy involved in pregnancy: (Fallopian tubes, Uterus, placenta) birth: (Uterus, placenta, birth canal).
83	OB/Gyn	Pre-delivery OB emergencies - name and treatment: Ectopic Pregnancy, Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, supine hypotensive syndrome, abruptio placenta, placenta previa).
85	OB/Gyn	During delivery OB - emergencies - name and treatment: Breech, multiple births, prolapsed cord.
86	OB/Gyn	Female in child-bearing years with abdominal pain is assumed to have ----- until proven otherwise? Ectopic Pregnancy.
87	OB/Gyn	Three stages of labor?: One: Ends with full cervical dilation. Two: Ends with delivery. Three: Ends with delivery of the placenta.
88	OB/Gyn	Average time from onset of labor to delivery for a first delivery?: 16 hours.
89	OB/Gyn	Umbilical cord around the neck loosely - treatment?: Carefully slip it over the head.
90	OB/Gyn	Umbilical cord around the neck tightly - treatment?: Clamp the cord in 2 places and cut in-between. (Do you have sufficient equipment to do the indicated treatment?)
91	OB/Gyn	Newborn airway suctioning - order?: Mouth and then nose.
92	OB/Gyn	Newborn delivered and not breathing - EMT tasks in order stimulate/suction/OPA & BVM/Compressions performing each task for 30 seconds before moving to next intervention.
93	Patient Assessment	AVPU: Alert. Responsive to verbal; pain. Unresponsive.
94	Patient Assessment	OPQRST: Onset, Provokes/Palliates, Quality of pain, Radiation, Severity, Time. Some add an "I" at the end - for Interventions attempted.
95	Patient Assessment	SAMPLE: Signs/Symptoms, Allergies, Medications (including OTC), Prior and pertinent medical history, Last oral intake, events leading to...
96	Patient Assessment	DCAPBTLS: Deformities, Contusions, Abrasions, Punctures, Burns, Tenderness, Lacerations, Swelling.
97	Patient Assessment	Best early indicator of overall patient condition: Mental Status
98	Patient Assessment	Patient Assessment - trauma and medical - steps
99	Patient Assessment	BSI/PPE
100	Patient Assessment	Abdominal pain - positioning: Supine with knees flexed.
101	Patient Assessment	Auscultation - definition - favorite exam question: Listening
102	Patient Assessment	Capillary refill time - normal vs. abnormal: Normal is under 2 seconds

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103	Patient Assessment	Abnormal respiratory sounds: Stridor (upper airway obstruction), wheezing (asthma/COPD), Rales (APE), Rhonchi (Infection: Bronchitis, Pneumonia).
104	Patient Assessment	Hazmat incident - EMT should always be uphill and upwind; favorite state exam question!
105	Patient Assessment	Tachycardia vs. Bradycardia - definition: HR too fast/HR too slow
106	Patient Assessment	Tachypnea vs. Bradypnea - definition: RR too fast/RR too slow
107	Patient Assessment	Normal adult heart rate/respiration rate: HR: 60-100; RR: 12-20
108	Patient Assessment	Normal <i>range</i> of pediatric heart rate/respiration rate (from birth to adulthood): HR: starts at birth at 150-160 and approaches 60-100 progressively through childhood to adulthood. RR: starts at birth at 50-16 and approaches 12-20 progressively through childhood to adulthood.
109	Patient Assessment	Skin condition measures ("CTC"): Color, Temperature, Condition
110	Patient Assessment	Abnormal skin conditions: Diaphoretic, moist, dry
111	Patient Assessment	Pupillary responses - normal and abnormal: Constricts in bright light; dilates in dim light.
112	Patient Assessment	Pupillary response - narcotics OD patient?: Constricted pupils
113	Patient Assessment	Pupillary response - shock patient?: Dilated pupils - this is a "flight & fright" reaction.
114	Patient Assessment	Cyanosis - definition and what is it a sign of? Early or late sign of this condition? Hypoxia - a very late sign.
115	Patient Assessment	FIRST priority for an EMT under ALL situations?: PERSONAL SAFETY.
116	Patient Assessment	Which patient(s) get a reassessment? ALL PATIENTS
117	Patient Assessment	Glasgow coma scale - minimum/maximum value? 3 - 15
118	Patient Assessment	Systolic Blood Pressure estimates: Radial Pulse present - systolic BP \geq 80; Femoral pulse present - systolic BP \geq 70; Carotid pulse present - systolic BP \geq 60.
119	Patient Assessment	Systolic vs. Diastolic BP - definition of what they measure: Systolic measures the force against arterial walls when the heart is contracting; Diastolic measures it when heart is at "rest".
120	Patient Assessment	Poisons - assessment & treatment. What is the first task for the EMT? EMT Safety (as always!).
121	Patient Assessment	Peritonitis - definition/causes: Irritation of the peritoneum. Causes include: infection, trauma, abdominal bleeding of any cause.
122	Patient Assessment	Referred pain - definition and 2 typical examples?: Pain from a location "far" away from the location of the pain. Gall bladder disease and ectopic pregnancy can cause referred pain to the right shoulder.

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123	Patient Assessment	Behavioral emergency - most important assessment task: Rule out all medical causes.
124	Pediatrics	Seal-like cough in pediatric: Typically caused by croup.
125	Pediatrics	Upper airway pediatric infections: Croup and Epiglottitis.
126	Pediatrics	4 year old in cardiac arrest - there is no pediatric AED available - what is your best option in addition to CPR?: If available, use an adult AED. Note: the opposite is not true. There is no benefit in using a pediatric AED if no adult AED is available.
127	Pediatrics	Most common causes of pediatric death: Airway issues, shock, infection
128	Pharmacology	Chemical vs. Generic vs. Trade Name: Chemical name is the name you'd see in a chemistry lab. Never used outside of manufacturer literature. Generic is the typical name - like Ibuprofen. Trade name are brand names like Advil or Motrin.
129	Respiratory	Signs of inadequate breathing: Tachypnea or Bradypnea, accessory muscle usage, pale or cyanotic skin, cool/diaphoretic skin, pursed lip breathing, Nasal flaring, Tripod position...
130	Respiratory	SOB - Typical causes, assessment, treatment: APE, Pneumonia, Asthma, COPD, infection, trauma, Seizures, Foreign Body... Typical treatment includes Oxygen, position of comfort, call for ALW, monitor airway and breathing and rapid transport. Wheezing patients typically get nebulized albuterol.
131	Respiratory	Treating wheezing patients with SOB; Albuterol: Recall that NYS protocol requires a call to medical control for a patient with any cardiac condition prior to giving albuterol.
132	Respiratory	Carbon monoxide poisoning - danger/treatment: CO has an affinity for hemoglobin 200% more than O2 does. Definitive treatment is a hyperbaric chamber (Lots of high concentration oxygen until they are taken there).
133	Respiratory	COPD - 2 types and what is the disease process of each?: Emphysema - damaged alveoli and loss of elasticity; Chronic Bronchitis: Damaged respiratory cilia in the airways - causing repeated respiratory infection.
134	Respiratory	Bronchodilator - definition; typical drug that we use: Any drug that dilates or opens up the airways. EMTs use Albuterol.
135	Respiratory	Dyspnea vs. Apnea vs. Hypoxia: Difficulty breathing vs. Not breathing vs. too little oxygen.
136	Respiratory	Status Asthmaticus - definition and treatment: An asthma attack that cannot be "broken" despite repeated bronchodilator treatments. Treatment includes BVM, ALS and very rapid transport.
137	Trauma	Spinal immobilization - procedures for sitting vs. supine
138	Trauma	Controlling epistaxis - no head injury/with head injury: No head injury: Head forward, pinch nostrils, ice on forehead, (rolled gauze under upper lip). Head Injury: Loose gauze to catch the blood and possible CSF.
139	Trauma	Signs of severe head injuries: AMS, Cushing's Reflex, Projectile vomiting, CSF from ears or nose, unequal pupils, seizures, Battles Sign, raccoon eyes...
140	Trauma	Stages of shock - distinguishing signs in each stage: Compensated (agitation, tachycardia, normal BP); Decompensated (Decreasing mental status, <u>dropping BP</u>), Irreversible (Loss of consciousness, no palpable BP, may have normal or low HR/RR).

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141	Trauma	Spinal injuries - signs/treatment: Paralysis, Visible bony fragments/deformity, pain along the spine, priapism, loss bladder and defecation control, Impaired breathing in C-Spine injuries (Christopher Reeves), Abnormal posturing (Decorticate/Deceribrated)... Immobilize, rapid transport to Trauma Center.
142	Trauma	Rapid extrication - when and how: Unstable patient or a stable patient is blocking access to an unstable patient.
143	Trauma	Bleeding - assessing severity; treatment: via MOI, vital sign monitoring; Type of external bleeding (arterial vs. others), quantity of bleeding. External bleeding: Stop bleeding per protocol, dress, bandage and transport; Internal bleeding: Monitor and treat for shock, ALS, rapid transport to trauma center.
144	Trauma	Types of shock: Hypovolemic, cardiogenic, neurogenic, septic, psychogenic. Neurogenic shock's hallmark sign: Warm dry skin - very different than other types of shock (classic state exam question).
145	Trauma	Splinting - technique by body part - Procedure
146	Trauma	Shock (Trendelenberg) position: Head below foot level.
147	Trauma	MAST - contraindications; one scenario where you might actually use it: Absolute contraindication is APE. Relative contraindications are: Pregnancy, Impaled object in chest. Might actually use it for a pelvic fracture with hypotension.
148	Trauma	Impaled object - treatment: DO NOT REMOVE OBJECT. Stabilize in place.
149	Trauma	KED - Last step of the procedure?: Secure the head.
150	Trauma	C-Collar procedure
151	Trauma	Angulated fracture - treatment?: Typically splint in position found. If PMS check reveals no distal pulse - one attempt to straighten limb until a distal pulse appears and then splint. If distal pulse can not be established, splint in position found and rapid transport.
152	Trauma	Signs of abdominal bleeding: Shock, bleeding from body orifices, black tarry stool, coffee grounds vomitus, tender/rigid/distended abdomen.
153	Trauma	Pneumothorax - definition: Air in the chest cavity.
154	Trauma	Spontaneous Pneumothorax - definition: Air in the chest cavity due to ruptured alveoli - for no apparent cause.
155	Trauma	Tension Pneumothorax ("TPT")- most typical cause, signs and treatment: Trauma!; Shock, AMS, Severe SOB, JVD, Treat with O2 via BVM, rapid transport, ALS. If a sucking chest wound was sealed with an occlusive dressing - remove the dressing allowing trapped air to be released. Re-apply occlusive dressing and monitor patient for reappearance of TPT.
156	Trauma	Hemothorax - definition: Blood in the chest cavity.
157	Trauma	Impaled object - when it <i>should</i> be removed? When it causes airway compromise - like a pencil through the cheek blocking the throat.

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158	Trauma	Traction splint - when contraindicated? When suspected fracture is near the hip or knee.
159	Trauma	Closed wound types - e.g. Contusions, Hematoma, Crush Injury and treatment: ABCs and rapid transport.
160	Trauma	Open wound types - e.g. Abrasions, lacerations... and treatment: Stop bleeding, dress and bandage.
161	Trauma	Avulsion - definition and treatment: Torn flap of skin. If possible, replace flap to maintain blood supply. Then treat as any other open wound.
162	Trauma	Amputation and treatment - most important: what to do with the amputated part?: Dry sterile dressing then seal in a plastic bag and then place in ice water.
163	Trauma	Major Risk for an open neck wound and treatment?: Air embolus - which can compromise circulation.
164	Trauma	Sucking Chest Wound treatment? Occlusive dressing closed on 3 sides.
165	Trauma	Pericardial tamponade - what is it and the most typical cause?: Bleeding in the pericardial space - typically caused by trauma. Signs included dropping systolic BP; elevating diastolic BP and muffled heart sounds.
166	Trauma	Flail chest - definition and treatment: More than 2 ribs broken in more than 2 places. Treat with BVM and rapid transport.
167	Trauma	Eviscerated abdominal organs - definition and treatment: Abdominal organs that are outside the body. Treat with: Moist sterile dressing, then occlusive dressing and then pad the area.
168	Trauma	What component of the blood is produced in the bone marrow? Predominantly red blood cells (erythrocytes).
169	Trauma	Types of fractures?: Open/Closed. Greenstick, Comminuted, Spiral, Impacted, Pathological.
170	Trauma	Dislocation: Discontinuity of a joint.
171	Trauma	Sprain vs. Strain: Sprain: Torn tendons or ligaments. Strain is typically a stretched tendon or ligament.
172	Trauma	Ecchymosis - definition: "Black and Blue" area caused by a collection of blood under the skin that is not part of circulation and therefore not oxygenated.
173	Trauma	Most reliable sign of a severe head injury?: AMS
174	Trauma	Cushing's reflex - what is this a sign of? What signs does a patient with Cushing's Reflex exhibit - some books mention two, but there is actually a third one): Sign of herniation of the brainstem through the Foramen Magnum. S/S: Slow pulse, increasing systolic BP and decreasing diastolic BP, Irregular breathing patterns.
175	Trauma	"Hallmark" sign of an Epidural Hematoma: Loss of consciousness, followed by a brief lucid period, followed by loss of consciousness.
176	Trauma	Subdural vs. Epidural Hematomas and Intra-cerebral bleeding/hematoma: Subdural: Bleeding between the brain and dura. Epidural: Bleeding between the dura and the skull. Intra-cerebral bleeding: Bleeding in the brain itself.

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177	Trauma	Most reliable sign of a spinal injury: Paralysis