

CECOM Burn/Smoke Inhalation 0001

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D: Who is this person?

C: Ahmed.

D: What happened?

C: He was patrolling near the airport and someone threw a grenade, which caused a fuel tank to explode. He got burned and he is having trouble breathing. There was fire.

D: [talk to the patient] How are you doing? I am a doctor in US Army and I am here to help you. Are you having trouble in breathing?

P: It hurts when I breathe deeply. Also, I can't hear out of my right side. Sounds like a ringing sound.

D: What else happened?

P: I got burned.

D: We are going to exam you. Is that okay?

P: Yes.

D: I need to remove your clothing. Is that okay?

P: Yes.

D: [start examining the patient].

D: We are going to check you blood pressure. Can you lift you left arm?

P: [lift his left arm] Why can't I hear on the right side?

D: There was an explosion and we think the explosion damaged the inside of your ear. I need to examine your ear.

P: Will it hurt?

D: No. You have some burns on your right side. Do they hurt?

P: Yes.

D: How much do they hurt; low, medium or high?

P: High.

D: Do you want something to make the pain less?

P: Yes.

D: Is there any medicine that will make you sick?

P: No. I don't know.

D: We are going to give you an IV.

P: Okay.

C: Why is he having difficulty breathing?

D: Did he inhale smoke or was he in an area where there was smoke?

C: Yes, there was a lot of smoke in the building.

D: He may have an injury to his lungs from inhaling smoke. We will place him on some oxygen to help him breathe more easily. I am going to put this mask over you face. There is oxygen coming through this mask, which makes your breathing easier. Can you sit up for me? I am going to listen to your lungs.

P: [sit up]

D: Try to take deep breaths for me. [Repeat four times]

D: [after listening to his lungs] You can lie back down.

P: Am I going to be ok? Is this noise in my ears going to stop?

D: Probably so. How is your pain now?

P: A little better.

[Little burns]

D: You have a burn on your skin and it isn't too bad. We are going to clean it, put dressing on it, cover it, and give you pain medicine.

P: Is it going to hurt?

D: For a little while. It should feel better in three or four days. I want you to come back in two days so I can change the dressing and check your burn.

P: Okay. What about my ear?

D: I am sorry. There is nothing to do for it right now. It may get better without treatment.

[Medium burns]

D: I have to clean your wound and remove some of the dead skin.

P: Is it going to hurt?

D: It may hurt for some time, but we will give you medicine for pain. The procedure is necessary to help you to heal your wound properly. I need you to come back tomorrow so I can change your dressing and clean your burn out again.

P: Okay. What about my ear?

[Very bad burn]

D: You have a very bad burn and we don't have the ability to properly care for your burns here. Therefore, we will send you on an airplane to a hospital with better facilities.

P: Where is the hospital?

D: Germany.

P: When will I come back to Afghanistan?

D: Three to four weeks. They will also take care of your ear in the hospital in Germany. We are going to hold you here at the aid station until the plane is ready to fly you to the hospital.

P: Okay.