Shock

What is Shock?

Shock is a life-threatening medical condition caused when organs of the body do not get enough oxygen-rich blood.

An organ is a self-contained part of the body that carries out a specific function, such as the heart, lungs, or kidneys.
Shock

What is Shock?

Shock occurs when the circulatory system, which is responsible for pumping blood to the body, begins to shut down.

This happens when:

• The heart is not pumping effectively
• Oxygen-rich blood is not circulating to the organs
• The blood vessels are not intact

Signs

Signs of shock include:

• An altered level of consciousness, or alertness. This can range from fully alert to non-responsive.
• Agitation or anxiety
• Confusion
• Drowsiness
• A weak and rapid pulse
• Clammy skin – when the skin is cool, moist, and pale
Shock

What To Do

When caring for a person in shock, you should:

- Call 911 or the emergency response number
- Have the victim lie flat or rest in the most comfortable position
- If the victim is bleeding, attempt to stop the bleeding by direct pressure over the wound
- Cover the victim with a blanket if the person feels cool
- Do NOT give the victim anything to eat or drink
- Provide reassurance

Shock

A person may also go into anaphylactic shock or anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction causing swelling of the airway and sometimes circulatory shutdown.

Anaphylactic shock is most often a result of an allergy to insect stings, foods, or medications, but may be caused by any severe allergy.

This is a serious medical emergency. Call 911 if someone is having a severe allergic reaction with trouble breathing.
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