

11 – FALL, TRAVERSE

SWISS ALPS



THE STORY:

A small group of mountaineers travelling just below a ridge crest were crossing a small snow field when a 23 y/o male member of the group started sliding on the steep slope and quickly began tumbling out of control. The Pt travelled over 400' (120m) downhill before coming to a stop on a ledge. Rescuers arrived to find the Pt head down, unresponsive, and breathing irregularly. On exam at 1530, the

rescuers discovered a large hematoma at the basilar skull with an unstable skull injury noted. An open tib./fib. fracture was noted on the right leg without active bleeding, and the Pt had sustained numerous bruises, lacerations, and abrasions. Vitals: Pulse: 124 and difficult to palpate at the carotid, Resp.: 36 and irregular, B/P: UTA, Skin: pale, cold, Pt remained unresponsive.

Put the appropriate information from the story above into the correct spaces provided in the SOAP note. Develop an Assessment for 1530 hrs. with Anticipated Problems and an appropriate Treatment Plan.

The Pt was monitored closely as the group struggled to do what they could to treat the Pt's injuries and initiate an evacuation plan. At 1630hrs., the Pt

became pulseless and the remaining members of the group began CPR.

Put the appropriate information from the story @1630hrs. into the correct spaces in the SOAP note. Given the remote location of the group, what might be your most effective and realistic treatment plan?

QUESTIONS

1. In contrast to the previous incident, this story does not have a positive outcome. What do you think your greatest challenge would be as a trip leader in this situation?
2. Once the patient lapsed into cardiac arrest, how long would you continue resuscitative efforts? Why?

