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## Drowning

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**Purpose:** To provide a guideline for the treatment of patients who present with the diagnosis of drowning requiring potential admission

**Definitions:** Drowning is defined as an injury pattern consistent with prolonged submersion or inhalation of water

**Guidelines:**

- A. Any patient regardless of age presenting with a history of drowning will be considered for trauma evaluation based on mechanism
  - a. If mechanism of witnessed trauma (i.e. fall from height into water or boating accident), an activation should occur
  - b. If no witnessed traumatic mechanism, the patient will first be evaluated by the ED physician and stabilized as required
    - i. Complete imaging as indicated on exam and history
    - ii. If no traumatic injuries are identified, the patient can be admitted to the medicine/pediatric service line as appropriate
    - iii. If the patient meets activation criteria, a “trauma activation” will occur at that time
      - 1. Activation should occur as per activation criteria guidelines
      - 2. Activation is not required for those patients that are intubated unless there is a known injury

**References:**

- Hunn, E., Helmer, S., Reyes, J., Haan, J.(2020). Patterns of Injuries in Drowning Patients – Do These Patients Need a Trauma Team? Kansas Journal of Medicine, Retrieved from <https://journals.ku.edu/kjm/article/view/13871/12824>