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Drowning

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 a mechanism of witnessed trauma (i.e. fall from height into the water or boating accident), an activation will 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 an injury is identified, a “trauma activation” will occur at that time
 - 1. Activation should occur as per activation criteria guidelines

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>