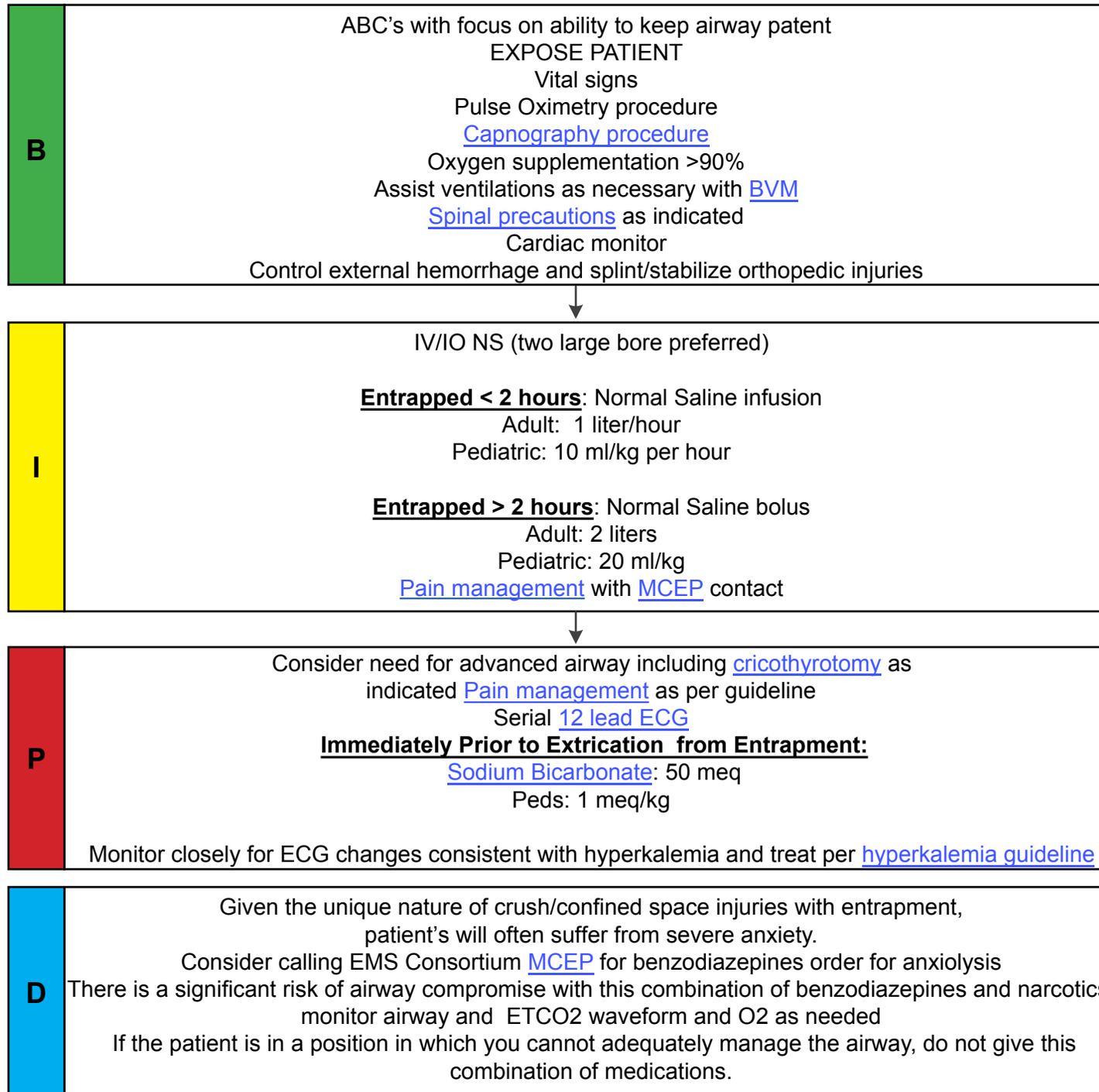


# Crush Injury

**Designation of Condition:** Entrapped and crushed under a heavy load for > 30 minutes either extremity or body. Often seen in building or trench collapse, industrial accident or pinned or heavy equipment. It is important to consider possible vascular and orthopedic injuries as well as metabolic derangements due to tissue ischemia.



### \*\*\*KEY POINT\*\*\*

A patient with a crush injury may initially present with very few signs and symptoms. Therefore, maintain a high index of suspicion for any patient with a compressive mechanism of injury.

A fatal medical complication of crush syndrome is hyperkalemia. Suspect hyperkalemia if T-waves become peaked, QRS becomes prolonged (greater than 0.12 seconds), absent P wave, or prolonged QTc.

Evaluation for fractures and potential compartment syndrome development (neurovascular status of injured extremity)