

Circulatory Shock

Shock is the state of not enough blood flow to the tissues of the body as a result of problems with the circulatory system

Signs & Symptoms

Symptoms of shock

- Dizziness
- Thirst
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Nausea
- Breathlessness
- Feeling cold

Signs of shock

- Collapse
- Rapid breathing
- Rapid pulse which may become weak or slow
- Cool, sweaty skin that may appear pale
- Confusion or agitation
- Deteriorating level of consciousness
- Vomiting

Warning

The symptoms, signs and rate of onset of shock will vary widely depending on the nature and severity of the underlying cause

Management

Management of Unconscious casualty

- DRSABCD
- Place in recovery (lateral) position
- Maintain clear airway
- Monitor breathing
- Control bleeding
- Treat other related injuries
- Maintain body temperature
- Call emergency services '000' and follow instructions

Management of Conscious casualty

- DRSABCD
- Place in supine (on their back) position
- Maintain clear airway
- Monitor breathing
- Control bleeding
- Treat other related injuries
- Maintain body temperature
- Call emergency services '000' and follow instructions

Note: Administer oxygen if available and trained to do so on both casualties

