

Scenarios for Diagnosis Day

Car vs Bike plus Tree

Anne, Bill and Charlie- the accident victims- are all high school students in a rural community. **Bill** is driving with **Charlie**, headed to school on a rainy, sleety morning. **Charlie** realizes he left his phone in his bag and really wants **Bill** to see the latest “cute kitten” post on Instagram. **Charlie** unbuckles to reach the bag in the back seat and looks for the posting. He neglects to re-buckle his seat belt.

While **Bill** is looking at yet another kitten posting, he veers to the right, hits a slick spot in the road. This sends the car spinning off the road. While spinning they feel and hear two distinct impacts. The last one stops the car.

Another driver witnesses the accident and sees the car first hit a cyclist, then hit a tree. The driver calls 911.

EMS arrives on the scene and finds **Bill** behind the steering wheel, **Charlie** lying face up on the floor of the back seat and **Anne** thrown from her bike. Community members are frantic and trying to talk to the injured youth.

The EMS responders in the initial contact will triage the patients based on injury and needs using multiple assessment tools that can be performed quickly. In this case they quickly find:

Bill appears alert and oriented to person, place, time and situation, is having some trouble breathing, hand on chest, and his left leg is angled oddly midway between the knee and ankle. His color is pale, but has strong pulses with a heart rate of 108 and is breathing at 22 breaths per minute. He is making eye contact, and responds appropriately to questions. Keeps asking where Charlie is. **Bill** complains of pain in his chest, left wrist and leg as well as hip.

Charlie is positioned face up on the floor of the back seat and is currently unconscious. He is breathing at a rate of 16 and has a strong pulse of 85.

Anne was riding her bike when she was struck from behind by the vehicle and is lying face up in the dirt about 15 feet from the side of the road. She is conscious but is having trouble holding eye contact or answering questions. She knows her name but that is all. She is not wearing a helmet and bystanders state they did not see one. She is breathing rapidly and has strong pulses at 120 beats per minute. She is complaining of pain in her head, back, and neck and hips.

Please answer the following questions based on the very limited information you have received so far. There are several possibilities and we do not expect you to catch every possibility.

Based on this quick look:

1. Who is the most critical? Anne Bill Charlie
 - i. Why?

2. Who is the least critical? Anne Bill Charlie
 - i. Why?

3. What injuries can you **positively** identify?
 - i. Anne
 - ii. Bill
 - iii. Charlie

4. What injuries do you suspect?
 - i. Anne
 - ii. Bill
 - iii. Charlie