ASPHYXIA

Potentially fatal condition, when not enough oxygen available to the body tissues, brain cells die within 4 min without oxygen.

CAUSES

1. OBSTRUCTED AIRWAY (CHOKING)
2. FLUID IN AIRWAY.
3. COMPRESSION OF AIRWAY.
4. COMPRESSION OF CHEST.
5. INJURY TO LUNGS.
CAUSES OF ASPHYXIA

6. INJURY TO CHEST WALL.
7. FITS.
8. ELECTRICAL INJURY.
9. POISON.
10. PARALYSIS.
11. INSUFFICIENT O2 IN AIR.
12. CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING.
GENERAL SYMPTOMS & SIGNS

• Difficulty in breathing. Rate & depth of breathing increases.
• Possible frothing at mouth.
• Blueness of face, lips, and finger nails.
• Confusion.
• Unconsciousness.
• Breathing may stop.
FIRST AID IN GENERAL

✓ Remove the cause of asphyxia.
✓ Open the airway.
✓ Check the breathing and circulation.
✓ Resuscitate if necessary.
✓ Place the casualty in recovery position.
✓ Seek medical aid.
CHOKING

• When the airway is partially or completely blocked by something which in act of swallowing goes into airway instead of food passage.
CHOKING

- Children, old edentulous, dentures, alcoholics
Food blocking windpipe

Normal passage of food
SYMPTOMS & SIGNS

• General symptoms and of asphyxia.

• Unable to speak or breathe may grip throat.

• Congestion of face and neck, blueness of lips and mouth.

• Possible unconsciousness.
FIRST AID

✓ Remove any debris or false teeth from mouth by hooking your fingers.
✓ Encourage the victim to cough.
✓ Help the victim to bend over with her head lower than lungs.
✓ Slap her between shoulder-blades with heel of your hand.
✓ Repeat up to four to five times if necessary.
✓ Check her mouth to see if obstruction has been dislodged. If not go for Helmich maneuver.
CONSCIOUS VICTIMS

- Encourage to cough
- Back slaps
- Abdominal thrusts (Heimlich Manoeuvre)
BACK BLOWS
1. **GIVE 5 BACK BLOWS**

- **Adult:**
- **Child:**
HEIMLICH MANEUVER
UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM
**ACTION**

DO NOT touch the casualty if he is in contact with the electrical current; he will be “live” and you risk electrocution.

DO NOT use anything metallic to push away the electrical source.

Dry wood does not conduct electricity well so may protect you

Casualty may still be “live”

Telephone directory is a good insulator

Pull source of electricity away