

Resuscitation

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All children initially receive high-flow oxygen, preferably via a non-rebreather mask; this can be stopped if there is cardio-respiratory stability after a period of observation. Intubation and ventilation are required if oxygenation is inadequate or if there is a low GCS, combative behaviour, an inability to cooperate, severe burns, prolonged seizures or imminent operative intervention. Ideally, seriously injured children require two large well-secured cannulae. Alongside the antecubital fossa, other suitable veins include the long saphenous at the ankle, the femoral, the external jugular and, in neonates, scalp veins. If intravenous access cannot be established, an intraosseous needle can be placed in the tibia (Figure 19.1) or the humeral head, which has the benefit of being easily accessed by an anaesthetist.

age-adjusted cardiovascular parameters. Initially, 10 mL/kg of a warmed isotonic fluid is given. Total blood volume (TBV) is around 85 mL/kg in a neonate, rising to 100 mL/kg at 1 month and then falling to 75–80 mL/kg in a child. Major haemorrhage is defined as loss of 50% of TBV in <3 hours, 100% in 24 hours or >20% in <1 hour, but is challenging to assess, especially in blunt trauma. Hospitals should have a major haemorrhage protocol. If the capillary refill is >2 seconds and the child has lost mainly blood, then blood is given, using O rhesus-negative blood until type-specific or cross-matched blood is available. Severe trauma-induced coagulopathy is best managed by correcting specific coagulation factors and using point-of-care testing thromboelastography (TEG) and thromboelastometry (ROTEM), but if these are not available the following are given: packed cells 20 mL/kg, fresh-frozen plasma 20 mL/kg, platelets 10 mL/kg and cryoprecipitate 5 mL/kg, and repeated maintaining these ratios and aiming for a haemoglobin level >80 g/L, platelets >75 × 10⁹/L, fibrinogen >1.5 g/L and activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT)/prothrombin time (PT) <1.5 × normal midpoint. If the major haemorrhage occurred within 3 hours, a slow tranexamic acid bolus of 15 mg/kg followed by an infusion (15 mg/kg over 8 hours) should be given.

1–3 cm Figure 19.1 The intraosseous needle is inserted into the proximal tibia's medullary cavity about 1–3 cm below the tibial tuberosity.

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