

– Adolescents / Adults : 8 to 10 breaths per minute

4. Disability: Assess the neurological status. Immobilize the spinal column as indicated. Assess the patient’s level of consciousness using the AVPU Method (*See Table 7-2*).

Table 7-2 : AVPU Mental Status Exam

A	<u>Alert</u> : Alert and oriented to person, place, time
V	<u>Verbal</u> : Responds to verbal stimulation, not oriented
P	<u>Pain</u> : Responds to painful stimulus only
U	<u>Unresponsive</u> : Does not respond to verbal or painful stimulus

5. Exam:

- Perform a rapid head to toe survey.
- Exsanguinating hemorrhage should be treated immediately.
- When assessing medical patients, quickly evaluate skin signs, central and peripheral pulses for rate and quality to identify immediate life threats.

Only interrupt a primary assessment for life threatening emergencies, cases of airway obstruction, a need for CPR or controlling exsanguinating hemorrhage.

C. Secondary Survey

1. Chief Complaint: The secondary survey begins with the patient’s chief complaint (CC). The CC is what the patient states or believes is the primary problem. It is reported in the context of the patient’s age, sex, CC, and its duration.
2. History of Present Illness (HPI)
The HPI is a concise but complete description of the medical sequence of events, that led to the patient’s request for help, i.e.:
 - “OPQRST” questions (*see Table 7-3*)
 - What was the patient doing when the symptoms began?
 - When did the symptoms start?
 - What has the patient done to relieve his or her symptoms?
 - Have any of these efforts made the patient feel better?
 - What other symptoms does the patient have?

Table 7-3 : OPQRST Questions

O	Onset
P	Provocation
Q	Quality
R	Region / Radiation
S	Severity
T	Timing