Injuries to the Face

- Injuries about the face can lead to upper airway obstructions.
- Bleeding from the face can be profuse.
- Loosened teeth may lodge in the throat.
- If the great vessels are injured, significant bleeding and pressure may occur.

Soft-Tissue Injuries

- Soft-tissue injuries to the face and scalp are common.
- Wounds to the face and scalp bleed profusely.
- A blunt injury may lead to a hematoma.
- Sometimes a flap of skin is peeled back from the underlying muscle.

Care of Soft-Tissue Injuries

- Assess the ABCs and care for life-threatening injuries.
- Follow proper BSI precautions.
- Blood draining into the throat can lead to vomiting. Monitor airway constantly.
- Take appropriate precautions if you suspect a neck injury.
Soft-Tissue Injuries
- Control bleeding by applying direct pressure.

Injuries Around the Mouth
- Injuries around the mouth may obstruct the airway.

Injuries of the Nose
- Blunt trauma to the nose can result in fractures and soft-tissue injuries.
- Cerebrospinal fluid coming from the nose is indicative of a basal skull fracture.
- Bleeding from soft-tissue injuries of the nose can be controlled with a dressing.

Injuries of the Ear
- Ear injuries do not usually bleed much.
- Place a dressing between the ear and scalp when bandaging the ear.
- For an avulsed ear, wrap the part in a moist sterile dressing.
- If a foreign body is lodged in the ear, do not try to manipulate it.

Facial Fractures
- A direct blow to the mouth or nose can result in a facial fracture.
- Severe bleeding in the mouth, loose teeth, or movable bone fragments indicate a break.
- Fractures around the face and mouth can produce deformities.
- Severe swelling may obstruct the airway.
Injuries of the Face and Neck

- Partial or complete obstruction of the upper airway may be the result.
- Several factors may contribute.
  - Blood clots from heavy facial bleeding
  - Direct injuries to the nose and mouth, larynx, and trachea
  - Dislodgment of teeth or dentures in the throat

Dental Injuries

- Mandible injuries are common.
- Most of these injuries are the result of vehicle collisions and assaults.
- Signs of mandible fractures include:
  - Misalignment of the teeth
  - Numbness of the chin
  - An inability to open the mouth

Maxillary fractures are usually found after blunt force high-energy impacts.
- Signs of maxillary fractures include:
  - Massive facial swelling
  - Instability of the facial bones
  - Misalignment of teeth
- Fractured and avulsed teeth are common following facial trauma.
**Landmarks of the Neck**

- Thyroid cartilage
- Carotid arteries
- Sternothyroid muscle
- Trachea
- Cricoid cartilage
- Cricothyroid membrane

**Blunt Injuries of the Neck**
- A crushing injury of the neck may involve the larynx or trachea.
- A fracture to these structures can lead to subcutaneous emphysema.
- Be aware of complete airway obstruction and the need for rapid transport to the hospital.

**Penetrating Injuries of the Neck**
- They can cause severe bleeding.
- The airway, esophagus, and spinal cord can be damaged from penetrating injuries.
- Direct pressure should control most bleeding.
- Place an occlusive dressing on a neck wound.
- Provide prompt transport and treat for shock.

**QUESTIONS?**