

The ABCDE approach

<p>Airway</p> <p>Can the patient talk?</p>	<p>YES → Patent</p> <p>NO →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open the mouth - Inspect for anything obviously compromising the airway (e.g. secretions)
<p>Breathing</p>	<p>Look for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of accessory muscle - diminished breath sounds - added sounds - cyanosis <p>Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respiratory rate - Oxygen saturation (88%-92% in COPD; 94%-98% otherwise)
<p>Circulation</p>	<p>Check</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pulses - peripheries (warm/cold/cyanosed) - Capillary refill time (N < 2 sec) - Insert cannula (at least 1 wide-bore IV cannula (14G or 16G))
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Check</p> <p>Level of consciousness</p> <p>Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)</p>
<p>Exposure</p>	<p>Expose the patient for a full assessment. (if necessary)</p> <p>Remember to prioritize patient dignity and conservation of body heat</p>