Lightning Strike Injuries

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Lightning is a very dramatic natural phenomenon that captures people’s attention. A lightning strike can produce a catastrophic or fatal outcome for some victims or it may result in very little or no residual effects. It is critical to recognize a lighting strike as both a medical and traumatic event. This session will help you provide the best care for a lightning strike patient.

Drew has been involved in EMS in both the public & private sector since 1978 when he joined the youth squad of his local community EMS agency. Drew continued his EMS career on his college EMS agency, and then as a law enforcement officer / supervisor working varies assignments including the Emergency Service Unit as its commanding officer. In the private sector Drew worked for a corporate healthcare company specializing in emergency management for the client companies. Presently Drew works in the Healthcare Emergency Preparedness field

Presentation Outline:

1. Epidemiology
2. Physics of Lightning
3. Pathophysiology
4. Assessment
5. Emergency Care

Objective 1: Discuss incident rates of lightning strikes including morbidity and mortality rates and predispositions to the time of year, locations and area distributions

Objective 2: Review the physics of lightning strikes

Objective 3: Current treatment strategies when managing a patient struck by lightning