



























































































news reports, public service announcements, and health advisories can provide vital information that may be used to prevent/reduce wildfire smoke exposure.

The patient wore a bandana to protect himself from wildfire smoke once it entered his camp site - the previous patient detail may be relevant because it provides context for the patient's potential inhalation injuries. The previous patient detail also provides additional insight into why the patient may be suffering from an inhalation injury. Health care professionals should note the following: a simple, common bandana is typically not effective when used to prevent/reduce wildfire smoke exposure; N95 respirators are typically effective when used to prevent/reduce wildfire smoke exposure (note: a N95 respirator should fit firmly against the face in a manner that does not leave any open gaps between the skin and the N95 respirator seal); individuals should be advised to use N95 respirators to prevent/reduce wildfire smoke exposure and to store N95 respirators within their home, especially if they live in or near areas typically impacted by wildfires.

The patient reports that he has asthma - the aforementioned patient detail may be relevant because individuals suffering from asthma may be more susceptible to the complications associated with inhalation injuries. Health care professionals should note the following complications associated with inhalation injuries: respiratory tract damage, lung damage, toxicity, and death.

The patient reports that he uses an albuterol inhaler as needed - the aforementioned patient detail is relevant because the patient reports that he uses a medication that may be essential to the effective management/treatment of potential inhalation injuries. Health care professionals should note the following: health care professionals should conduct medication reconciliations when individuals are admitted into a health care facility to determine their current medications. Health care professionals should also note the following information regarding medication reconciliations: medication reconciliations are intended to identify and resolve medication discrepancies; medication reconciliations should address medication duplications, omissions, and interactions, and the need to continue current medications; the type of information health care professionals should use to reconcile medications include (among others) medication name, dose, frequency, route, and purpose; health care professionals should identify the information that needs to be collected in order to reconcile current and newly ordered medications and to safely prescribe medications in the future (Joint Commission, 2020).

*What other ways, if any, are the previous patient details relevant to the potential presence of an inhalation injury?*

### **Is the patient highlighted in the case study suffering from an inhalation injury?**

Based on the information presented in the case study, it does appear the patient is suffering from an inhalation injury.

*How can health care professionals potentially gather additional information to help confirm the possible presence of an inhalation injury?*

### **How can health care professionals effectively manage/treat the patient's inhalation injury?**

Health care professionals can effectively manage/treat the patient's inhalation injury by incorporating the following three essential elements of inhalation injury management/treatment into the patient's care: possess insight into inhalation injuries and how they may affect potential patients; select appropriate treatment options for patients in need; follow inhalation injury recommendations.

*How can insight into inhalation injuries, selecting appropriate treatment options, and inhalation injury recommendations optimize patient care?*

## **Conclusion**

Inhalation injuries can be devastating to an individual's health. They can lead to inflammation, respiratory tract damage, lung damage, toxicity, and death. Thus, inhalation injuries must be effectively managed and treated by health care professionals. Health care professionals can effectively manage/treat patients suffering from inhalation injuries by incorporating the following three essential elements of inhalation injury management/treatment into patient care: possess insight into inhalation injuries and how they may affect potential patients; select appropriate treatment options for patients in need; follow inhalation injury recommendations.

## **References**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, August 3). Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke. <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/wildfires/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018, June 18). Standard precautions. <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/summary-infection-prevention-practices/standard-precautions.html>

Joint Commission. (2020). Hospital: 2020 national patient safety goals. [www.jointcommission.org/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/hospital-2020-national-patient-safety-goals/](http://www.jointcommission.org/standards/national-patient-safety-goals/hospital-2020-national-patient-safety-goals/)

Jones, S.W., Williams, F. N., Cairns, B. A., & Cartotto, R. (2017). Inhalation injury: Pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment. *Clin Plast Surg*, 44(3), 505–511. 10.1016/j.cps.2017.02.009

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. (2020). Health topics. <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health-topics>

National Institute of Mental Health. (2020). Health topics. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/index.shtml>

United States Food and Drug Administration. (2020). Find information about a drug. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-information-consumers/find-information-about-drug>





The material contained herein was created by EdCompass, LLC (“EdCompass”) for the purpose of preparing users for course examinations on websites owned by EdCompass, and is intended for use only by users for those exams. The material is owned or licensed by EdCompass and is protected under the copyright laws of the United States and under applicable international treaties and conventions. Copyright 2021 EdCompass. All rights reserved. Any reproduction, retransmission, or republication of all or part of this material is expressly prohibited, unless specifically authorized by EdCompass in writing.