Crime Scene Management

Aliases: Crime scene preservation

1. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care Protocol-Treatment Protocol**
2. Preserve evidence whenever possible.
    A. Wear gloves for all patient care and other activities within the crime scene.
    B. Never cut through holes in clothing created by bullets or knives.
    C. Retain all clothing, place in a paper bag. Be alert for torn clothing, fragments of cloth, blood, or body fluids, etc. for they need to be preserved as evidence.
    D. Law enforcement is responsible for the disposition of this evidence.
    E. When transporting a patient who may be dying, ascertain name and/or description of assailant if possible.
    F. At an outdoor crime scene do not disturb shoe prints, tire marks, shell casings, etc.
    G. Limit movement at the crime scene.
    H. Attempt to keep others out of the area.
3. Advise patient to not shower, change clothes, or dispose of pertinent objects. If applicable, refer to **Sexual Assault-Treatment Protocol**.
4. Assess patient for injury and treat according to protocol.
5. Use sensitivity in asking victim about history/events.
6. Thoroughly document all injuries and voluntary statements of patient. Red marks may disappear and your documentation may be the only witness that the victim was choked or struck, even though he/she stated it.
7. Document patient's emotional state.
8. Assure law enforcement agency has been notified.
    A. Notify the investigating law enforcement of any alteration of the crime scene by EMS personnel including:
        a. Any movement of furniture, tables, etc.
        b. The original position of the patient and items.
        c. If you turned on lights.
        d. What you touched, moved, etc.
9. Transport, treating according to appropriate protocol.
    A. If transport is refused, refer patient to support agency and/or hospital whenever possible and contact medical control if applicable.

NOTES:

1. Your first duty is to provide emergency medical care at the scene of an illness/injury.
2. Certain measures can be taken to assist law enforcement personnel in preserving a crime without jeopardy to the patient.
3. The investigation of the circumstances surrounding the incident is the responsibility of the law enforcement agency.
4. Do not touch firearms (loaded or unloaded) unless it poses a potential or immediate threat. Secure any weapon that can be used against you or the crew out of the reach of the patient and bystanders.