

# SHOCK

## **Awareness:**

The term shock is used to denote a state of collapse of the circulation with subsequent failure to maintain an adequate supply to vital organs. Shock may result from a wide range of conditions; heart attack, burns, excessive vomiting and diarrhoea.

## **Assessment:**

Those in a state of shock are usually pale, clammy and restless. They may also have rapid breathing and a fast weak pulse.

## **Action:**

Treatment of shock needs to be directed at the cause of the shock. So bleeding must be stopped, fractures immobilised and burns treated. Lie the casualty down with the legs raised if possible and protect them from any extremes of heat or cold. Reassurance and careful handling are very important.

## **After Care:**

Continue to monitor DRABCD and seek medical attention.