

Shock

Occurs when the circulation system fails to send blood to all parts of the body. With shock, blood flow or blood volume is too low to meet the body's needs. Areas of the body are deprived of oxygen. The result is damage to the limbs, lungs, heart, and brain. Loss of blood from any injury can cause shock.

Signs & Symptoms

- Weakness. Trembling.
- Feeling restless.
- Confusion.
- Pale or blue-colored lips, skin, and/or fingernails. Cool and moist skin.
- Rapid, shallow breathing. Weak, but fast pulse.
- Nausea. Vomiting. Extreme thirst.
- Enlarged pupils.
- Loss of consciousness.

Causes

- A heart attack.
- A large drop in body fluids, such as following a severe burn.

Treatment

Shock requires emergency medical care.