Biologic Defense Mechanisms of the Human Body

Clinical Activities

1. Assess the biologic defense mechanisms of a patient who has been injured in a car accident and brought to the emergency room. Be sure to include non specific mechanisms and specific mechanisms.

2. In a patient-teaching format, explain to a patient recovering from injuries the stages of the inflammatory response including how and when healing occurs.

Suggested Readings


Jones, I: You can drive back infection if you know where to make your stand, Nursing 15:50-52, April 1985. Provides a system-by-system guide to infection detection in the form of a chart. Reviews basic concept of colonization and describes things nurses can do to create barriers to infection. Identifies patients who are at risk for infection.

Taylor, DL: Immune response: physiology, signs, and symptoms, Nursing 14:52-54, May 1984. Illustrations along with explanations about how the body recognizes and destroys antigens that threaten it and the clinical findings associated with these defense mechanisms.