Ch 14 notes: MFR Infants and Children

Anatomical/Physiological differences:

1. Variation in the sizes of infants and children can make assessment difficult
2. Children are soft and easily damaged
3. A child’s body surface area is greater per unit of weight than that of an adult
4. Children are typically born strong and healthy and can compensate for many of the negative effects of illness and injury

Head: Child’s brain is developing for first year

Head is proportionally larger and heavier

Soft spots

Chin to chest position

Airway: tongue is large in comparison to the mouth

Smaller passages, positioning airway

Infants and children have more secretions—blocks smaller airways

Neck: Neck muscles are weaker

Difficult to fit in c-collar

Chest: Higher metabolic rate-requires more nutrients and oxygen

Infants breathe through nose

Use abdominal muscles to breathe-chest muscles not developed yet

More susceptible to chest injuries-smaller cavity

Bones of chest mainly cartilage

Abdomen: belly breathers

Extremities: bones are flexible and more susceptible to fractures than chest bones

Primary Assessment: Initial

20 foot rule: scared of adults, crying, failure to cooperate, toe to head assessment

Signs of respiratory distress: increased respiratory rate

Shallow breathing

Gasping, grunting

Stridor or snoring

Brachial pulse

Use blow by oxygen

Shaken baby syndrome :Abuse: altered mental status

Croup: viral infection age 3 mo to 3 yrs: seal bark

Epiglottitis: bacterial infection: rare but serious: sudden on set

Shock: loss of blood or fluids: increased respiratory rate

Seizures: fever can bring on seizures

SIDS: prone to if tummy sleep, soft surfaces to sleep, loose bedding, smoking, bed sharing,

pre term or low birth weight

Trauma: leading cause of death in peds

Child Abuse: Unsanitary conditions, Unsafe conditions, very thin-starvation, stares blankly, fearful of

parents or adults, cant explain injuries, bruises, scars, broken teeth, rope burns, whip marks,

pinch marks, raccoon eyes, burn marks, swollen ears, unexplained delay in treatment…..