

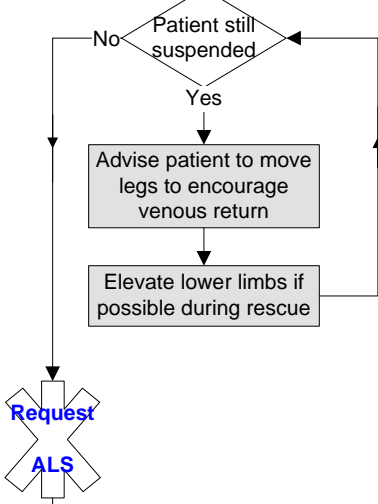
# Harness Induced Suspension Trauma

Fall arrested by harness/rope

Personal safety of the Practitioner is paramount

If circulation is compromised remove the harness when the patient is safely lowered to the ground

Consider removing a harness suspended person from suspension in the direction of gravity i.e. downwards, so as to avoid further negative hydrostatic force, however this measure should not otherwise delay rescue.



Place patient in a horizontal position as soon as practically possible

If adult cardiac arrest following rescue consider Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% 50 mL IV

Monitor BP, SpO<sub>2</sub> and ECG

Oxygen therapy to maintain SpO<sub>2</sub> > 94%

20 mg/Kg aliquots NaCl IV to maintain Sys BP > 90 mmHg

Go to appropriate CPG



Patients must be transported to ED following suspension trauma regardless of injury status

**Special Authorisation:**  
Paramedics are authorised to continue the established infusion in the absence of an Advanced Paramedic or Doctor during transportation

**Reference:**

Adish A et al, 2009, Evidence-based review of the current guidance on first aid measures for suspension trauma, Health and Safety Executive (UK) Research report RR708

Australian Resuscitation Council, 2009, Guideline 9.1.5 Harness Suspension Trauma first aid management.

Thomassen O et al, Does the horizontal position increase risk of rescue death following suspension trauma?, *Emerg Med J* 2009;26:896-898 doi:10.1136/emj.2008.064931