

6060 PEDIATRIC APPARENT LIFE-THREATENING EVENT (ALTE)

DEFINITION:
An infant < 1 year of age with episode frightening to the observer characterized by apnea, choking/gagging, color change or change in muscle tone

Support ABCs as necessary

Obtain detailed history of event and medical history

Complete head-to-toe assessment

- Any child with an ALTE should be transported to ED for evaluation
- Monitor vital signs en route

EMT	AEMT
EMT-I	Paramedic

Clinical history to obtain from observer of event:

- Document **observer's** impression of the infant's color, respirations and muscle tone
- For example, was the child apneic, or cyanotic or limp during event?
- Was there seizure-like activity noted?
- Was any resuscitation attempted or required, or did event resolve spontaneously?
- How long did the event last?

Past Medical History:

- Recent trauma, infection (e.g. fever, cough)
- History of GERD
- History of Congenital Heart Disease
- History of Seizures
- Medication history

Examination/Assessment

- Head to toe exam for trauma, bruising, or skin lesions
- Check anterior fontanelle: is it bulging, flat or sunken?
- Pupillary exam
- Respiratory exam for rate, pattern, work of breathing and lung sounds
- Cardiovascular exam for murmurs and symmetry of brachial and femoral pulses
- Neuro exam for level of consciousness, responsiveness and any focal weakness