

SAQ 9

A 25 year old man sustains facial injuries in a high speed motor vehicle crash in which he was the unrestrained driver.

His observations are:

GCS	15	
HR	100	/min
BP	130/75	mmHg supine
O ₂ saturation	97%	room air



a) Describe the abnormalities shown in this photograph.

- Periorbital bruising bilaterally
- Facial swelling especially over the right zygoma
- Haemoserous nasal discharge
- Possible swollen tongue
- Chipped right upper incisor

3 marks (3 out of 5)

b) What underlying injuries could there be?

- Facial bone fractures
- Mandibular fracture
- Base of skull fractures
- Intracranial haemorrhage

3 marks (3 out of 4)

c) What are the risks to his airway?

- Swollen tongue – haematoma
- Direct trauma to airway
- ICH causing depressed GCS
- Blood loss into airway from facial fractures
- Mandibular fracture
- Small mouth
- Bull neck

5 marks (at least 5)