

TABLE 5-5
PRINCIPLES OF PATIENT MANAGEMENT

- Treat conventional injuries first, since radiation injuries will not be immediately life threatening.
 - Evaluate the extent of trauma and initiate resuscitation procedures.
 - Begin corrective procedures, such as surgery and fluid administration, based on the triage assessment of conventional injuries.
 - Prevent infection until immunocompetence is regained.
 - Take steps to reduce the foci of infections from colonizing artificial devices or damaged tissues.
 - If infection is suspected, use empiric therapy with broad-spectrum antibiotics to complement these physical interventions.
 - Take steps to improve immunocompetence and physiological well-being of the patient.
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