Epistaxis

Initial assessment
Assess airway, breathing and circulation
- Obtain vitals
- Quick H&P

Stable?
YES

ED Management:
1. Blow nose
2. Apply Oxytetracycline [Amin]
3. Direct pressure 15 min (nose clip)

NO

Treat hemorrhagic shock
- Hemorrhage control (packing)
- Obtain IV access
- Blood product
- Diagnostics
  (Out of our algorithm)

Bleeding stopped?
YES

- Monitor for re-bleed (30-60 min)
- Discharge with follow-up

NO

TXA soaked packing for 15 minutes
  + Direct pressure with nose clip

Bleeding stopped?
YES

- Monitor for re-bleed (30-60 min)
- Discharge with follow-up

NO

Anterior Packing:
Rapid Rhino or similar anterior packing device

If BP >180/110, consider blood pressure reduction if bleeding difficult to control after packing

Bleeding stopped?
YES

- Monitor for re-bleed (30-60 min)
- Discharge with ENT follow-up in 48-72 hours
  + anti-staph Abx coverage

NO

Bilateral Anterior Packing

Bleeding stopped?
YES

ENT Consult
Admission vs CDU

NO

Posterior Packing
ENT consult and
Admission (telemetry)

References
- Epistaxis summary of the main literature

Most recent update: 11/5/2019
Department(s): Emergency Medicine