



## 2026 Trauma Anesthesia Panel

Beth Benish MD      Rich Ing MD      AJ Ferrone MD






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## DISCLOSURES

No financial disclosures

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## Panel Learning Objectives

- ▶ Management of Pediatric Blunt Thoracic Trauma
- ▶ Management of Severe Brain Trauma
- ▶ Role of POCUS in Trauma



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## Anesthetic Considerations in Blunt Thoracic Trauma for Pediatric Patients

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## Objectives

1. Understand the mechanism of injury and pathophysiology of severe blunt force thoracic injuries especially in children.
2. Preparing anesthesia for the severely injured polytrauma child.
3. Develop an Approach to Managing Blunt Heart Injuries



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## Epidemiology of Blunt Chest Trauma

Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injuries (BTAI)

USA and Canada: 7500- 8000 Deaths Annually

**80 % of Patients die before Hospital Arrival**

**15-23 % of those who Reach Hospital : Succumb to associated injuries within 24 hrs**

Fabian TC et al. J Trauma 1997 42(3) 374-80



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### Blunt Chest Trauma (BCT)

15% of all Trauma Admissions to ER Worldwide

2nd Leading Cause of Death after Head Injury in MVA's

Mortality from BCT reported 9-60%

Trauma : 45 % of deaths in children :1 to 14 years.

Eghbalzadeh K Blunt Chest Trauma : a Chameleon. Heart. 2017 Dec 4.



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### Blunt Thoracic Trauma in Children

Thoracic Trauma accounts for <10% of injuries in Pediatric trauma patients.

2<sup>nd</sup> commonest cause of death in Pediatric Trauma.

Blunt Thoracic trauma accounts for 85-90% of injuries.

MVA accounts for 70-77% of thoracic injuries.

Falls account for 8-11%.

CT ionizing radiation concerns in children, gentler imaging recommended

Orschem E et al. Imaging in Blunt Thoracic trauma. Pediatric Radiology 2025 Aug 9. Online ahead of print PMID: 40782254



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### Unique Pediatric Considerations

Thinner, more compliant chest wall.

More energy transmission less Rib Fractures

Shearing forces a bit less

Increased Susceptibility to Tension Physiology (Blood or Air)

Pedestrian (shorter, great direct chest impact risk)

Orschem E et al. Imaging in Blunt Thoracic trauma. Pediatric Radiology 2025 Aug 9. Online ahead of print PMID: 40782254



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### Imaging

Chest Xray

1235 Pediatric Patients Blunt Thoracic Trauma.

Specificity of Chesty Xray 90%

Subsequent CT change in management less than 9%.

Ugalde IT, et al Chest X-ray vs. computed tomography of the chest in pediatric blunt trauma. J Pediatr Surg (2021) 56:1039-1046



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Ugalde IT, et al Chest X-ray vs. computed tomography of the chest in pediatric blunt trauma. J Pediatr Surg (2021) 56:1039-1046

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### Scoring Trauma in Pediatrics

- Helps with Triage
- 3 Main Ways TO SCORE TRAUMA
- The body regions affected by trauma
- The mechanism of trauma
- The severity of the trauma



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### Accident Risk : High Energy Impact

**Fall Height**  
 <2 yrs of age:>1 m  
 ≥ 2 yrs of age : >1.5 m  
 Or 2-3 times height of child

**High risk auto:** ejection, intrusion of car , other passenger death  
 Head struck  
 Auto vz pedestrian  
 Fall greater than from 5 stairs

Teppas JJ Pediatric Trauma Score J Pediat Surg :1987: 22: 14-8  
 Sasser SM, Guidelines on Field triage 2011 MMWR 2012: 61: 1-20  
 Anil M.J pediatric Emerg Intensive Care 2017: 4: 1-7



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### Why this Topic?



3<sup>rd</sup> Largest Hospital World  
 3200 beds  
 429 buildings  
 173 acres  
 70% admissions emergencies  
 150 000 annual inpatients  
 500 000 outpatients

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital Soweto South Africa  
 Med student till end of resident training 1984 - 1995

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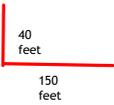



Demetrios Demetriades, MD



George Velmahos, MD

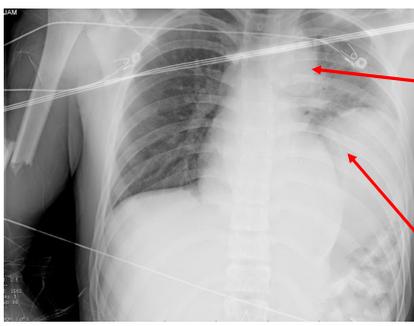
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15-year-old boy 75 kg  
 Motorcycle injury  
 Wearing a Helmet no LOC  
 Abrasion front lower abdomen  
 Fractured R Humerus  
 Neck Collar  
 Pale Hb 9.8 g/dl  
 2 Peripheral 20 Gauge IVs



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Aortic disruption mediastinal hematoma that extends into the retroperitoneum

Herniation of the Stomach into the left Hemi-Thorax: Diaphragmatic Injury

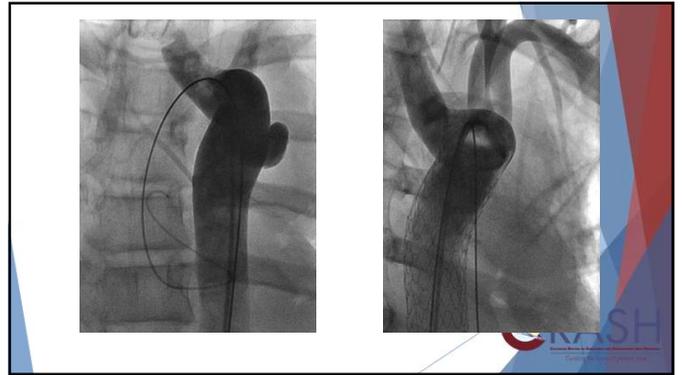
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### Anesthetic Approach

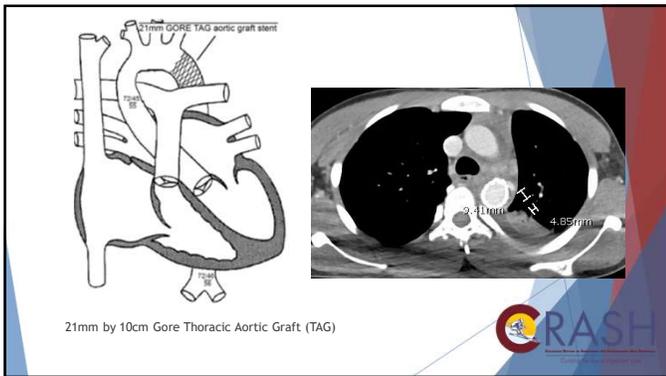
Prepare for a lengthy Anesthetic 3:45 am -10:45am.  
 Radiology Suite (Cold) Exposed Extremities ± Thoracotomy / Laparotomy  
 Airway Considerations: Neck Collar  
 Appropriate Vascular Access and Invasive Monitoring (Art line CVP)  
 Serial Hb / ABG: Associated abdominal injury ongoing bleeding  
**Heparinization**  
 Inotropes  
 Urinary Catheter (Contrast enhanced diuresis + length of procedure)  
 Blood Products / Patient Air Convection Warmer  
 Antibiotic Prophylaxis and Redose



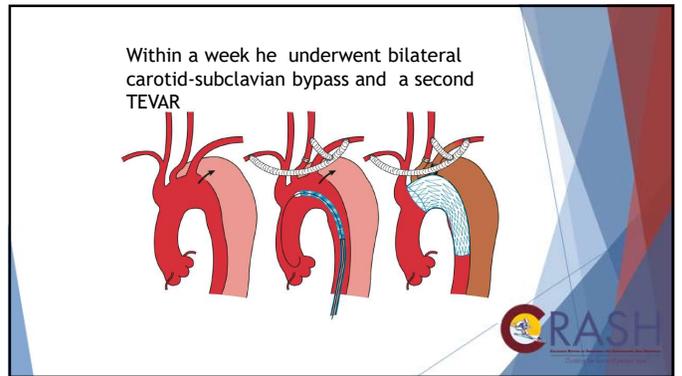
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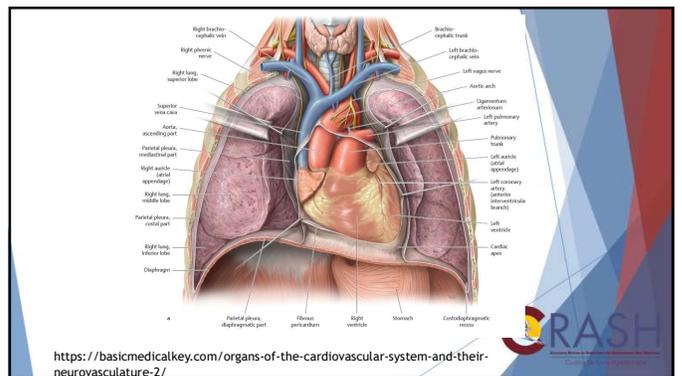


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### Anatomy and Mechanisms of Injury



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## Pneumothorax

- ▶ Pathophysiology:
  - ▶ Penetrating- flap
  - ▶ Blunt- deep breath against closed glottis or puncture from rib
- ▶ Diagnosis:
  - ▶ Absent or diminished breath sounds
  - ▶ CXR (upright and expiratory better)
  - ▶ CT scan
- ▶ Management:
  - ▶ Penetrating: repair injury if sucking then chest tube
  - ▶ Occult: On CT alone, chest tube, watch or nothing
  - ▶ On CXR: chest tube or pigtail
  - ▶ Prophylactic antibiotics for three doses



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## Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injuries



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## Chest Trauma Primary Assessment

### Feel

Deviated trachea (away from tension)  
Crunchy (crepitus)

### Listen

Decreased or no Breath Sounds  
Murmurs/Rubs  
Distant Heart Sounds

### Look

Cyanosis  
Shortness of breath  
One side not moving  
Foreign bodies  
Bruises  
Flail Chest (Rib # s)  
JVD (esp. low BP)



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## Pneumothorax

- ▶ Pathophysiology:
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- ▶ Diagnosis:
  - ▶ Absent or diminished breath sounds
  - ▶ CXR (upright and expiratory better)
  - ▶ CT scan
- ▶ Management:
  - ▶ Penetrating: Three-sided cover if sucking then chest tube
  - ▶ Occult: On CT alone, chest tube if OR or nothing
  - ▶ On CXR: chest tube or pigtail
  - ▶ Prophylactic antibiotics for three doses



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## Other Important Injuries

### Tracheobronchial injuries

Usually 2 cm from carina (R)

Signs :

Dyspnea cough, stridor  
Subcutaneous emphysema,  
hemoptysis,  
Pneumothorax.

May need rigid Bronch for ETT

### Pulmonary injury

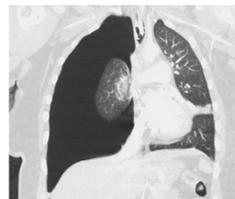
Hypoxia,  
Intraparenchymal hemorrhage,  
Atelectasis,  
Hemothorax  
Pulmonary contusion

Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).  
Mechanical Ventilation

Vishnu Madapura MBBS, and Gabriel Pollock MD,  
Cedars – Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA.  
OpenAnesthesia

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## Tension Pneumothorax



Increased intrathoracic pressure,  
compression and pushing  
mediastinal contents  
can kink the vena cava  
Therapy : Needle decompression  
Chest tube

<https://pedimmorsels.com/traumatic-pneumothorax/>



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**2nd ICS MCL and 4th ICS AAL**

**In Children Aged:**

0 Yrs	22G/2.5 cm
5 Yrs	20G/3.2 cm
10 Yrs	18G/4.5 cm

21 month old girl Leonhard et al. Scandinavian Journal of Trauma, Resuscitation and Emergency Medicine (2019) 27:90 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13049-019-0671-x>

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### BTAI Mechanism of Injury & Epidemiology

Direct Impact Anterior Chest	
Compression of Thorax	
Deceleration Injury	
MVA	70%
Motorcycles	13%
Auto-Pedestrian Collisions	7%
Falls & Crush Injury	7%

Head on	72%
Side Impact	24%
Rear Impact	4%

Fabian TC J Trauma 1997 42(3) 374-80

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### CDC reported 41911 traffic related deaths in 2008.

Autopsy Analysis : Los Angeles; Chatsworth, train accident 25 fatalities.

Thoracic Aortic Rupture 33% of fatalities.  
Cardiac Rupture 21% of fatalities.

Extrapolation Based on this study;  
Every Year, 14,000 Traffic Fatalities have Blunt Thoracic Aortic Injuries.

Demetriades D. Blunt thoracic aortic injuries: crossing the Rubicon. J Am Coll Surg. 2012 Mar;214(3):247-59.

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### DELAYED POST-TRAUMATIC RUPTURE OF THE AORTA IN A YOUNG HEALTHY INDIVIDUAL AFTER CLOSED INJURY

MECHANICAL-ETIOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

MAX A. ZEHNDER, Lt. Col. (M.C.), U.S.A.R.<sup>1</sup>

Experiments:  
1,000 - 2,500 mmHg pressure required to rupture the Aorta.  
Confirming the earlier work of Oppenheim from 1918

OPPENHEIM, F.: Gibt es eine spontan ruptur der gesunden aorta und wie kommt sie zustande? Muenchen med. Wchnschr., 65: 1234, 1918.

ZEHNDER MA. Delayed post-traumatic rupture of the aorta in a young healthy individual after closed injury; mechanical-etiological considerations. Angiology. 1956 Jun;7(3):252-67.

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### Nonpenetrating Traumatic Injury of the Aorta

By LOREN F. PARMLEY, LT. COLONEL, MC, THOMAS W. MATTINGLY, BRIG. GEN., MC, WILLIAM C. MANION, M.D., AND EDWARD J. JAHNKE, JR., MAJ., MC

275 Autopsy cases:  
15% of cases temporarily survive.  
This article influenced and aggressive therapeutic approach for the next 50 years.

PARMLEY LF, et al. Nonpenetrating traumatic injury of the aorta. Circulation. 1958 Jun;17(6):1086-101.

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Medial Aspect Aortic Isthmus  
90% Reaching Hospital  
80% Autopsy Fatal Cases

False Aneurysm	58%
Dissection	5%
Intimal Tear	20%

Demetriades D. Blunt thoracic aortic injuries: crossing the Rubicon. J Am Coll Surg. 2012 Mar;214(3):247-59

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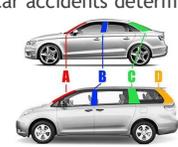
**Lateral impact Motor vehicle accidents impart 46,051 to 313,502 Joules Energy to the chest.**  
**Force of > 1,000 mmHg Intra-Aortic pressure needed to Rupture the Aorta**

Siegel JH et al. Analysis of the mechanism of lateral impact aortic isthmus disruption in real-life motor vehicle crashes using a computer-based finite element numeric model: with simulation of prevention strategies. J Trauma. 2010 Jun;68(6):1375-95.

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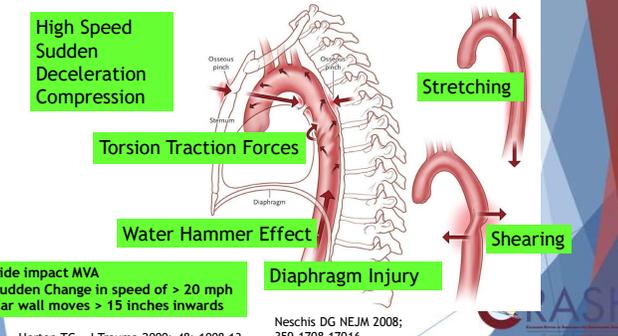
### B Pillar of Car Frames

Force of the **B Pillar** of the car frame impact has on the Human body in car accidents determines the extent of injuries



Siegel JH et al. Analysis of the mechanism of lateral impact aortic isthmus disruption in real-life motor vehicle crashes using a computer-based finite element numeric model: with simulation of prevention strategies. J Trauma. 2010 Jun;68(6):1375-95.

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**High Speed Sudden Deceleration Compression**

**Torsion Traction Forces**

**Water Hammer Effect**

**Diaphragm Injury**

**Stretching**

**Shearing**

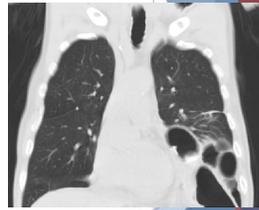
Side impact MVA  
 Sudden Change in speed of > 20 mph  
 Car wall moves > 15 inches inwards

Neschis DG NEJM 2008; 359 1708-17016  
 Horton TG, J Trauma 2000; 48: 1008-13

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### Blunt diaphragmatic and thoracic aortic rupture: An emerging injury complex

In one study of 3,886 Pts  
 69 (1.8%) had BDR  
 44(1.1%) TAR  
**7/69 (10%): both injuries**



Rizoli S. The Annals of Thoracic Surgery 1994 58 (5) 1404-1408  
 Mahmoud A.F. Rupture diaphragm: Early diagnosis and Mx. EJM 2017 . 25, (2), 163-170

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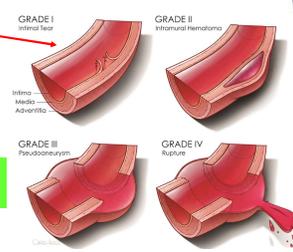
### Massive Blunt Chest Compression

- Vascular** Injuries to Ascending / Descending Aorta, Innominate Artery
- Heart** End-Diastole {Distended Ventricle} Most Susceptible time of high Intraventricular Cavity Volume
- Lungs** Contusion, Hemothorax, Pneumothorax, Laceration
- Airway**
- Skeletal** Fractures of Sternum/ Thoracic Vertebrae/ Ribs

Sandhu H.K. J Vasc Surg. 2018 Feb;67(2):389-398

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### Classification & Risk Stratification of Traumatic Aortic



**Watch expectantly Conservative therapy depending on injury site**

**Starnes: Stratify as Minimal or Significant injury based on presence of an external aortic contour abnormality**

Sandhu H.K. J Vasc Surg. 2018 Feb;67(2):389-398  
 Starnes BW, et al. A new classification scheme for treating blunt aortic injury. J Vasc Surg. 2012 55(1):47-54.  
 Lee WA et al. Endovascular repair of traumatic thoracic aortic injury: J Vasc Surg. 2011;83(1):187-92

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### Diagnostics: A clinical chameleon

Prepare for Rapidly Changing Clinical Condition

Individual Signs Symptoms Prompt Investigations

No Gold-Standard Diagnostic Test (ATLS Protocol)



Complex Cardiac Arrhythmia	Angina-like Chest pain
Heart Murmurs	Dyspnoea
Hypotension	Distended Jugular Veins
	Pneumothorax/ Cardiac Tamponade

Teyssier J et al. Photonic crystals cause active colour change in chameleons. Nat Commun. 2015 Mar 10;6:6368. Eghbalzadeh K Blunt Chest Trauma : a Chameleon. Heart. 2017 Dec 4.

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### Diagnostic Approach

Physical Examination

**Chest X-Ray ( 14% may be normal)**

Serial 12 lead ECG

Cardiac Enzymes CK-MB and Troponin

Cardiac Echo

**Chest X-Ray: Rib, Sternum, Spine Scapula, Clavicle Fracture**

**Widened Mediastinum >8 cm**

**Tracheal Deviation, NG tube R**

**Loss of Aorto-Pulmonary Window**

Contrast CT scan

Suspected Coronary Artery Injury: Coronary Angiogram

Eghbalzadeh K Blunt Chest Trauma : a Chameleon. Heart. 2017 Dec 4.

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Demetriades D. Blunt thoracic aortic injuries: crossing the Rubicon. J Am Coll Surg. 2012 Mar;214(3):247-59

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### Management of Thoracic Trauma

3 Distinct Phases of Care:

- Pre-hospital trauma life support
- In-hospital or emergency room trauma life support
- Surgical trauma life support

Ludwig C. Management of Chest Trauma J Thorac Dis 2017;9(Suppl 3):S172-S177

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### Initial Management

Active Extravasation : Immediate life-saving Surgery. No Delay.

Most patients reaching hospital have a contained rupture.

**Rigorous Blood Pressure Control**

(Systolic as low as tolerated 90-110 mm Hg usually)

Decreases risk of rupture from 12% down to 1.5% in first 24 hrs. B-blockers commonly prescribed.

Fabian TC et al. Prospective study of blunt aortic injury: Multicenter Trial of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. J Trauma. 1997 Mar;42(3):374-80 Demetriades D. Blunt thoracic aortic injuries: crossing the Rubicon. J Am Coll Surg. 2012 Mar;214(3):247-59

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### Treatment Options



1997, Kato and colleagues first reported endovascular stent grafting in 10 patients all alive at 15 months follow-up.

**However not all ruptured Aortas amenable to this therapy:**

**Ongoing bleeding, greater than 1 liter blood loss hemodynamically unstable patient: Surgery**

Kato N et al. Traumatic thoracic aortic aneurysm: treatment with endovascular stent-grafts. Radiology. 1997 Dec;205(3):657-62. Schellenberg M. Inaba K. Critical Decisions in the Management of Thoracic Trauma. Emerg Med Clin N Am 2018 135-147

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### Endovascular Repair

0% used in 1997  
65% used in 2007



Performed Under Sedation  
Local Anesthesia  
Minimizes Blood Loss  
Well Tolerated in High Risk Pts  
Minimizes Paraplegia  
Reduces Mortality

Demetriades D et al. Operative repair or endovascular stent graft in blunt traumatic thoracic aortic injuries: results of an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Multicenter Study. J Trauma. 2008 Mar;64(3):561-70

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### Disadvantages

Endoleak 14 %  
Groin access vascular damage  
Stent Migration  
Subclavian/ Carotid occlusion

We still don't know the extent of medium and long term durability of these stents

High volume centers better



Outcomes  
Demetriades D et al. Operative repair or endovascular stent graft in blunt traumatic thoracic aortic injuries: results of an American Association for the Surgery of Trauma Multicenter Study. J Trauma. 2008 Mar;64(3):561-70

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### National trends in utilization and outcome of thoracic endovascular aortic repair (TEVAR) for traumatic thoracic aortic injuries

**In-hospital Mortality** after TEVAR decreased:  
33.3% in 2005 to 4.9% in 2011 (P < .001)

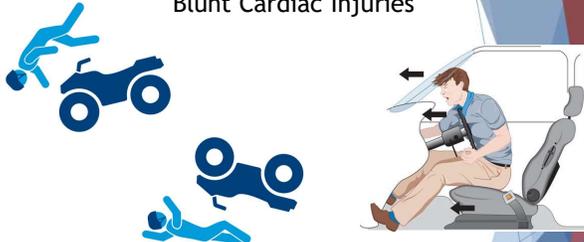
**Procedural Mortality** (TEVAR or open repair) decreased:  
14.9% to 6.7% (P < .001)

**Mortality after any TTAI Admission** declined:  
24.5% to 13.3% during the study period (P < .001).

Uttee KHJ et al. J Vasc Surg 2016;63:1232-9  
Demetriades D et al. J Trauma. 2008 Mar;64(3):561-70

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### Blunt Cardiac Injuries



<https://www.childrenscolorado.org/pediatric-innovation/research/surgery/screening-for-pediatric-cardiac-injuries-after-atv-accidents/>  
<https://imdicests.com/quick-dirty-guide-chest-trauma/>

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### Heart Injury due to Blunt Chest Injury

1<sup>st</sup> blunt injury to the heart reported in 17<sup>th</sup> Century  
Took 3- 400 years to record the first successful repair

End-Diastole **{Distended Ventricle}**  
Most Susceptible time of high Intraventricular Cavity Vol / Pressure

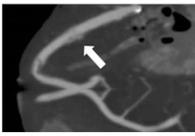
Warburg E. Myocardial and Pericardial Lesions due to Non-penetrating Injury. Br Heart J 1940;2(4):271-80.  
Bellister SA, et al. Blunt and Penetrating Cardiac Trauma. Surg Clin North Am. 2017 Oct;97(5):1065-1076.

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### Heart Injuries

**Commotio Cordis** Ventricular fibrillation with no structural damage  
**10 to 30 ms before the peak of the T wave**

**Cotusio Cordis** Myocardium, Valves, Conduction System  
Isolated Coronary Injuries / Rupture / Dissection




Inokuchi G et al. Fatal right coronary artery rupture following blunt chest trauma: detection by postmortem selective coronary angiography. Int J Legal Med. 2016 May;130(3):759-64.  
Link MS et al. An experimental model of sudden death due to low-energy chest-wall impact (commotio cordis) N Engl J Med. 1998 Jun 18;338(25):1805-11.

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### Blunt Cardiac Injury : Spectrum

Minor ECG or Enzyme Abnormality  
Complex Arrhythmia  
Coronary Artery thrombosis  
Free Wall Rupture  
Septal Rupture  
Cardiac Failure

**Categories of Force Causing Myocardial Injury**  
Direct  
Indirect  
Compressive  
Decelerate  
Blast

Mattox KL et al. Blunt cardiac injury. J Trauma. 1992 Nov;33(5):649-50.



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### Physical Examination

Thoracic trauma  
Hypotension  
Jugular venous distention  
Tachypnoea/ Wheezing/ Rhonchi  
Chest abrasion/ tenderness/ palpable crepitus/ flail chest  
Fractured clavicle/ sternum/ ribs  
Distant heart sounds/ tachycardia/ rub/ murmurs/ pulsus paradoxus

Elie MC. Blunt cardiac injury. Mt Sinai J Med. 2006 Mar;73(2):542-52.



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### Diagnostics: ECG

Blunt Chest Trauma : Significant Injuries  
85% Have an Abnormal Admission ECG.  
Commonly: Sinus Tachycardia and PAC or PVC

Other changes:  
T wave changes: Depression or elevation/ atrial fibrillation/ flutter  
Conduction delay/ New Q waves

Christensen MA et al. Myocardial contusion: new concepts in diagnosis and management. Am J Crit Care. 1993 Jan;2(1):28-34.



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### Diagnostics: Cardiac Enzymes

**CK-MB** not recommended:  
Skeletal muscle, Lung, Stomach, Pancreas, Liver, Small Intestine

**Troponin I** : Heart specific . If elevated > 2.0 ng/ml : Significant

**Normal ECG and No rise in Troponin at 8 hours:  
No Other Injuries  
Negative Predictive value 100% : Discharge the patient**

Velmahos GC et al. Normal electrocardiography and serum troponin I levels preclude the presence of clinically significant blunt cardiac injury. J Trauma. 2003 Jan;54(1):45-50



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### Diagnostics: Point of Care Echo

Up to 30% of BCI patients have abnormal cardiac echo  
Pericardial Effusion and Tamponade are Common

Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST)  
**Rapid screening** 1.30 +/- 0.08 mins vs. X- Ray ; 14.18 +/- 0.91 mins, p < 0.0001

Indications: Heart failure, Hypotension, Arrhythmia

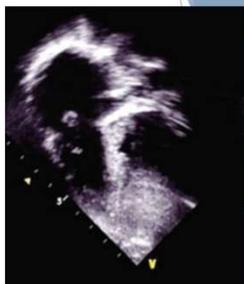
Frazee RC et al. Objective evaluation of blunt cardiac trauma. J Trauma. 1986 Jun;26(6):510-20.  
Sisley AC et al. Rapid detection of traumatic effusion using surgeon-performed ultrasonography. J Trauma. 1998 Feb;44(2):291-6



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### 2 Patients: June and July 2013, ATV Accidents

Case 1  
35 kg 11 yr old  
LOC at scene brief CPR  
Lacerated Knee: Debridement at outside hospital under GA.  
Post op CT found large heart:  
Cardiac Echo  
**Troponin 38.9 (0-0.119 ng/mL)**  
CPB at CHCO  
Tricuspid valve papillary muscle Avulsion repaired. Home POD 5

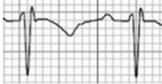


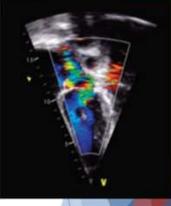
Ngo KD, Pian P, Hanfland R, Nichols CS, Merritt GR, Campbell D, Ing RJ. Pediatr Emerg Care. 2016 Jul;32(7):468-71. Cardiac Injury After All-Terrain Vehicle Accidents in 2 Children and a Review of the Literature.

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**Case 2**

68 kg 13 yr old : No LOC  
**Troponin 9.4 ng/mL.**  
 ECG wide complex tachycardia.  
 Cardiac Echo: TR, MR, VSD.  
 CPB repair:  
 Received Porcine TV, MV.  
 VSD Patch Necrotic Septum.  
 3rd degree Heart block :  
 Epicardial pacemaker  
 Home POD 6 Warfarin Aspirin





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### Anesthetic Induction Approach

Start normal saline bolus of 10 mL/kg  
 If signs of inadequate perfusion are present -  
 relative bradycardia; SBP < 70 + (2 x age):  
 EPINEPHRINE 1 mcg/kg slow IV/IO every 3-5 minutes as required  
 KETAMINE 0.5 mg/kg IV/IO  
 In patients with adequate perfusion and heart rate (can consider adding gas)  
 KETAMINE 1 mg/kg IV/IO  
 EPINEPHRINE on "stand-by" 1 mcg/kg slow IV/IO  
 every 3-5 minutes as required or infusion 0.02-0.05 mcg/kg/min



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### Maintenance

KETAMINE: ½ of the induction dose every 10-15 minutes as required to maintain sedation  
 Additional of benzodiazepine at 0.1 mg/kg as required  
 FENTANYL: consider 1-3 mcg/kg IV/IO every 10-15 minutes if pain is believed to be a major factor  
 Normal saline: 10 mL/kg as required  
 EPINEPHRINE as required



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### Anesthetic Considerations

In Thoracic Blunt Injury Poly-Trauma:  
 Consider Multi-Organ Involvement  
 (C-spine, head injury, lung, airway, diaphragm, aorta, heart, pericardium, long bone, pelvis)  
 Anticipate Lengthy Surgery, Invasive Monitoring and IV Access.  
 Any Endovascular Procedure may need to be:  
 Converted to Open Surgical  
 Transfusion & Inotropes & Intensive Care Post-Op Disposition



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### Additional Anesthetic Considerations

Always check for Occult bleeding ( abdomen when working on chest)  
 Large Bore IV access upper and lower limb depending on injuries  
 Arterial line & CVP  
 Temperature management/ blood warmer/ Belmont rapid IV infuser  
 Keep up with Bleeding  
 Blood Product Cross Match (Massive Transfusion Protocol)



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### Anesthetic Considerations

Metabolic Considerations  
 Dependent on Rate and Volume of Resuscitation:  
 Antibiotics 4 hrly IV Cefazolin 30-40 mg/kg  
 Metabolic Acidosis with hyperlactemia is common (Cardiac Output)  
 Hypocalcemia, Hypomagnesemia, Hyper / Hypo kalemia  
 TACO & TRALI risk is ever present in Children



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### Crush Syndrome Traumatic Rhabdomyolysis

1. Involvement of muscle mass
2. Prolonged compression (usually 4-6 hrs, but possibly <1 hr);
3. Compromised local circulation.

Hypovolemic shock and hyperkalemia  
 Increased creatine kinase > 10,000u/l  
 Intravenous fluids during extrication 10- 20 mls/kg /hr  
 Low urine pH cause myoglobin to form a gel renal tubular damage

Gonzalez D. Crush Syndrome Crit Care Med 2005 Vol. 33, No. 1



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### Conclusions

Blunt Chest Trauma can lead to Severe Aortic and Myocardial injuries

Clinical signs : Subtle and Change Rapidly

Strict Preoperative Blood Pressure Control In Aortic Injuries

Diagnosis : CT scan, ECG , Cardiac Enzymes, Cardiac Echo



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## Update: Anesthesia for Traumatic Brain Injury

Bethany Benish MD  
 Assoc Chair Anesthesiology  
 Director of Trauma Anesthesia  
 Denver Health Medical Center




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### Traumatic Brain Injury

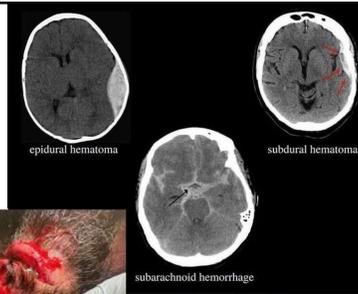
- ▶ 70 million people sustain TBI each year, 5.5 million severe = 8.1 million years lived with disability
- ▶ Moderate to severe TBI → 30% rate of full dependence or death by 6 months
  - ▶ significant financial burden; healthcare costs, & loss of employment productivity
- ▶ Increased over last few decades
  - ▶ More falls
  - ▶ More MVAs in developing countries
  - ▶ Older, more comorbidities, median age has doubled over last 40 years
  - ▶ Higher all cause mortality rate



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### TBI management

- ▶ Blunt and Penetrating
- ▶ EDH, SDH, SAH





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## Focus of care for Severe TBI Patients

- Prevent intraoperative **cerebral tissue hypoxia** and maintaining systemic homeostasis
- Careful anesthetic planning and meticulous control of the physiological parameters
- Management protocols adequate for the ICU for Neurotrauma are assumed to be also valid for the OR

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## Initial approach: Emergent vs Non-Emergent

If non-emergent:

- Resuscitation and hemodynamic stability is priority before surgery!
- Severe hypovolemia/anemia → severe hypotension upon induction
- Impaired cerebral autoregulation for weeks after TBI, worse with higher GCS and higher ICP. Longer this lasts, worse the outcome

PreOp – evaluate other injuries (abd, chest, ortho) and severity

- Prioritize stopping extracranial hemorrhage before craniotomy
- If time permits, place ICP monitor before surgery to guide Intraoperative management

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## Who needs ICP monitoring?

Gold standard is EVD (diagnostic and therapeutic)

Recommended when:

- GCS <8 with structural damage on CT
- Worsening CT or clinical deterioration
- Patient that requires urgent extra-cranial surgery

Also consider with GCS >8 when knowing ICP can facilitate management decisions

- Can assist with sedation weaning and extubation
- Associated with lower in-hospital mortality, lower 6-month mortality



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## ICP treatment trigger?

ICP alert threshold > 22 (range 20-25) for >5 min

Threshold may be more dependent on individual patients and injury types

Both degree and duration of ICP are important

- Gradual ICP rise vs short term elevations

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## Management of Severe TBI (3 Tiers SIBICC)

First-Tier

- Optimize sedation & analgesia
- Head elevation & neutral position
- Hyperosmolar therapy (based on labs or clinical findings suggestive of elevated ICP):
  - Consider in patients with dilated and nonreactive pupils, asymmetric pupils, extensor posturing or no motor response, Cushing Response while awaiting definitive management
  - 3% Hypertonic saline bolus (e.g., 2.5 mL/kg) or 23.4% HTS (30mL over 5min)
  - Mannitol (0.5-1 g/kg)
  - Hold if serum sodium >165 or osmolality >330
- CSF drainage if EVD is present



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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier:

- Ensure airway, oxygenation. Temporary **hyperventilation** (PaCO<sub>2</sub> -30-35 mm Hg) only as bridge
- Continuous hyperosmolar infusion (3%) if needed
- Paralysis for refractory ICP with appropriate sedation

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Third-Tier

- ▶ Decompressive craniectomy for refractory ICP per neurosurgery consultation

CRASH

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POSSIBLE CAUSES OF NEUROWORSENING

- Expanding intracranial mass lesion
- Cerebral edema
- Elevated ICP
- Stroke
- Electrolyte or other metabolic disturbance
- Medical comorbidity
- Medication effect
- Impaired renal or hepatic function
- Systemic hypotension
- Seizure or post-ictal state
- Hypoxemia/tissue hypoxia
- CNS infection
- Infection or sepsis
- Substance withdrawal
- Dehydration
- Hyper or hypothermia

CRASH

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**What not to do:**

- Routine steroids
- Continuous mannitol infusion
- CSF drain
- Furosemide
- Scheduled Hypertonic (q 4-6hr)
- Therapeutic hypothermia
- Hypocarbica PaCO<sub>2</sub> <30mmHg
- CCP above 90
- High dose propofol for burst suppression

CRASH

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**Airway concerns with TBI**

- ▶ Swelling face, blood/vomit, obtunded/uncooperative
- ▶ C-collar
- ▶ Approximately 6% of severe TBI also have C-spine injury, many unstable
  - ▶ VL should be the primary intubation tool in TBI, DL as backup
  - ▶ If unstable c-spine, flexible bronchoscope or hyperangulated VL are best
- ▶ Balance of appropriate depth of sedation
  - ▶ Avoid sudden MAP increases
  - ▶ Avoid hypoventilation/hypercarbia

CRASH

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**Induction agents:**

- ▶ **Etomidate**--maintains CPP, superior hemodynamics, consider if hypotensive
  - ▶ unfavorable effects in aneurysm clipping, risk of cerebral hypoxia
  - ▶ Lacks analgesia
  - ▶ no role in sedation/maintenance
- ▶ **Ketamine**--safe, preserves CPP/may prevent secondary neuro injury
  - ▶ Maintains HD stability
  - ▶ BP effect may offset hypotension associated with Fentanyl in RSI
  - ▶ weak & conflicting data of effect on neurophysiology
  - ▶ No increase O<sub>2</sub> consumption, no change in regional glucose consumption
  - ▶ Maintains spontaneous ventilation and airway reflexes if needed
  - ▶ Potent analgesic--excellent for RSI in TBI, great for sedation & maintenance
- ▶ Avoid Propofol in RSI unless hypertensive, lower your dose significantly
- ▶ **Ketofol**--maybe a great option

CRASH

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**RSI options:**

- ▶ NMB--succinylcholine or rocuronium are both fine
  - ▶ Succinylcholine RSI? Studies in ventilated TBI patients, no increase in ICP or CPP
    - ▶ Ensure adequate induction medications before DL
    - ▶ Can consider 2-5 mg Rocuronium pre-Succinylcholine as defasciculating dose
- ▶ Rocuronium RSI 1.2mg/kg

CRASH

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## Avoiding hypoxia during RSI is essential!

Preoxygenation can be challenging

Delayed sequence induction (DSI)-method used for intubating uncooperative TBI patients

- Dissociative dose of ketamine (0.5-1 mg/kg) before adequate preoxygenation and positioning, followed by neuromuscular blocking agent and subsequent intubation
- Resulted in higher first-attempt success and lower hypoxia rates, making it a viable alternative to RSI
- Good option in agitated patients

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## Maintenance?

Volatile vs Propofol TIVA – similar neurologic outcomes

- TIVA with propofol/opioid associated with lower BP
- A meta-analysis including 14 studies with over 1800 patients who underwent craniotomy, TIVA compared with inhalation anesthesia
- ICP was 5 mmHg lower and CPP approximately 16 mmHg higher with TIVA than with volatile anesthesia,
- **No difference** in operative conditions after dural opening, recovery profiles, postoperative complications, or neurologic outcome

If VA is use, Sevoflurane is preferred agent, most favorable profile on CMR and CBF, keep less than 1 MAC

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## What about other maintenance adjuvants?

### Ketofol TIVA vs Propofol

- higher MAPs, lower vasopressor need
- Similar brain relaxation

### Adding dexmedetomidine to propofol-based TIVA

- Reduces doses of propofol and fentanyl without any difference in ICP, CPP, hemodynamics, or brain relaxation scores

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## Ventilation Goals

- ▶ Normoxemia and normocarbida
- ▶ Protective lung ventilation strategies, titrate PEEP for oxygenation
  - ▶ minimal effect on ICP up to PEEP 15
- ▶ Use ABGs to guide hyperventilation rather than by end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> (ETCO<sub>2</sub>)
  - ▶ As briefly as possible to prevent herniation
  - ▶ Goal PaCO<sub>2</sub> 30-35mmHg
  - ▶ Goal PaO<sub>2</sub> 80-120mmHg
- ▶ Avoid ventilator dyssynchrony

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## BP and CPP Goals

- ▶ Goal in TBI: AVOID HYPOTENSION
- ▶ Incidence of hypotension during emergency craniotomy is **32-65%**
  - ▶ Increased risk of death, persistent vegetative state/disability compared with patients without hypotensive episodes
  - ▶ The duration of intraoperative hypotension is inversely correlated with neurologic outcome
- ▶ Targeting **SBP ≥ 110 mm Hg/MAP > 80 mm Hg** will allow adequate cerebral perfusion in most cases when ICP is not being monitored
- ▶ Mortality increases linearly with every 10-point drop of SBP below 119 mm Hg in patients with TBI, suggesting that higher targets may be indicated than previously recognized.
- ▶ Treat hypotension early and aggressively, minimizing time CPP <60

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## Role of Osmotherapy

- ▶ Cerebral autoregulation is blunted/abolished
- ▶ ICP should be reduced first, rather than increasing BP in TBI, to avoid worsening cerebral edema & further elevating ICP
- ▶ Mannitol: use if impending herniation, 1g/kg
  - ▶ If EDH/SDH, can make extra-axial bleeding worse
- ▶ Hypertonic saline
  - ▶ More commonly used
- ▶ Recent meta-analysis involved 12 RCTs containing 464 patients and showed no significant difference between hypertonic saline and mannitol in terms of mortality or neurologic outcome despite both drugs reducing ICP and improving cerebral perfusion pressure

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## Controversial role of TXA:

**CRASH 3** (polytraumas with TBI)

- ▶ Criticisms:
  - ▶ No details included in study on type of TBI or CT findings
  - ▶ Not able to confirm that TXA administration reduced intracranial bleeding
  - ▶ Patients with moderate/severe TBI who received TXA showed a lower degree of fibrinolysis as assessed by reductions in D-dimer and plasmin-antiplasmin levels
  - ▶ Not demonstrated on TEG (insensitivity of this tool for the assessment of fibrinolysis)
- ▶ Studies show increased mortality in isolated severe TBI
  - ▶ Hypercoagulable state affecting cerebral microcirculation?
- ▶ Recent large meta-analysis on TXA in TBI
  - ▶ No effect on mortality or neurologic recovery



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## Choice of Fluids:

- ▶ Avoid dropping sodium (LR is hypotonic)
- ▶ Avoid excessive NS (hyperchloremic acidosis)
- ▶ Use plasmalyte, or alternate LR and NS
- ▶ Albumin?
  - ▶ Hypoalbumin is independent risk factor for mortality in TBI, normalization of oncotic pressure with slowly infused hyperoncotic 20-25% albumin reduced mortality
  - ▶ SAFE trial (saline vs albumin) increased mortality with 4% albumin
    - ▶ Probably no role for colloid/albumin in TBI
- ▶ Match urine output with fluids



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## Transfusion triggers:

- ▶ Keep Hgb >7, liberal trigger of >9 → worse neurologic outcome
  - ▶ age of blood doesn't matter
- ▶ Avoid thrombocytopenia
- ▶ Early evaluation of coagulopathy
  - ▶ TEG based resuscitation
  - ▶ patients with TBI (n = 74), there was an improvement in 24-h survival with the use of viscoelastic testing (OR 2.12 (95%CI 0.84-5.34)).
  - ▶ INR <1.4
- ▶ Reverse anticoagulants




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## TBI coagulopathy

- TBI frequently develop coagulopathies, closely associated with poor outcomes
- Incompletely understood complex derangement of coagulation
- Characterized by immediate post-injury hypercoagulability, followed by hyperfibrinolysis and bleeding
- In addition, many patients presenting with TBI are taking anticoagulants or antiplatelet drugs for other medical conditions



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- Pre-injury anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy are associated with higher risk of ICH and higher mortality
- In patients with VKAs presenting with coagulopathy and life-threatening bleeding, the INR should be corrected
- Prothrombin concentrate is preferred over FFP, as it corrects the INR faster



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## Platelets

- Early thrombocytopenia and platelet dysfunction is common after TBI
  - Independent risk factor for mortality and poor outcomes
- Routine administration of platelets is not recommended even in patients on antiplatelet agents because of the lack of outcome data
- Quantify platelet dysfunction (e.g., TEG) and using transfusions or desmopressin to improve platelet function
- Platelets to reverse effect so antiplatelets in TBI does reduce hematoma expansion, no improvement in mortality or neuro outcome



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### Other considerations

- Early Seizure prophylaxis with Levetiracetam (Keppra) or Phenytoin (Dilantin) Similar efficacy
- Treat hypo/hyperglycemia (goal 80-140)
- Avoid high dose glucocorticoids in TBI
- Prevent Hyponatremia—goal Na 135-145
- Consider VTE prophylaxis within 24-4hr if ICH is stable on CT

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### Penetrating Brain injuries

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### Concerns specific to Penetrating TBI

- Traumatic vascular injury?**
  - Proximal vascular control? neck exposure?
  - Large cranial decompression/wide craniectomy
  - Circulatory pause? Adenosine in room
  - PRBC/FFP/Pit ready
- Protruding foreign body?**
  - Timing and setting of removal
  - CSF leak/Dural repair
- Traumatic aneurysm?**
  - Endovascular management?
- Mass lesion/Edema?**
- Skull base Involved?**
  - CSF leak

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### Concerns with extubation

- TBI patients fail extubation wean frequently, higher unplanned extubation and reintubation rates compare to other ICU patients
- HTN, coughing, vomiting—increasing ICP, bleeding
- Avoid hypoventilation—hypercarbia, increasing CBF/ICP
- Extubation criteria:
  - ICP normalized
  - No evolving lesions on CT
  - Intact upper airway reflexes and cough

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### Emergence HTN

- ▶ Very common
- ▶ Recognize and treat quickly.
  - ▶ Avoid intracranial hemorrhage
  - ▶ Avoid worsening cerebral edema in those areas where the blood-brain barrier is disrupted
- ▶ Treatment should be titrated to avoid hypotension, cerebral hypoperfusion, and enlargement of an area of cerebral ischemia
- ▶ Labetalol and Nicardipine both effective

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### Summary of goals in Severe TBI

- Facilitate early decompression if ICH with expanding hematoma
- Maintain CPP 65-80mmHg (MAP-ICP)
- Avoid Hypotension, hypoxemia, hyper/hypocarbica, hypo/hyperglycemia, coagulopathy, seizures
- Adequate analgesia/amnesia
- Facilitate early postop neuro evaluation when feasible
  - If high ICP, not a good time to wean/extubate
- Align—always but do not delay evacuation of hematoma
- ICP—ideally yes—remember to monitor closely during transport
  - EVD clamp or not to clamp? Clamp trial

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### Outcomes in TBI

- Like all trauma, heterogenous population/injury patterns
- Extracranial surgery worsens outcome, lower GCS and lower cognitive performance at 60 days and 6 months
  - If not urgent, postpone other procedures beyond the acute phase
  - Time urgent surgery for when ICP is well controlled (ideally within 48hrs)
  - Damage control orthopedic surgery(early ex-fix), timing of definitive treatment can be challenging
  - Avoid laparoscopic because of increased intraabdominal pressure and hypercarbia risk
  - Facial fractures rarely need emergent intervention
- Difficulty predicting long term outcomes based on initial exam/imaging



103

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### PoCUS FOR TRAUMA: IT'S MORE THAN SIMPLY FAST

Dr. AJ Ferrone, MD  
Denver Health and Hospital Authority  
University of Colorado




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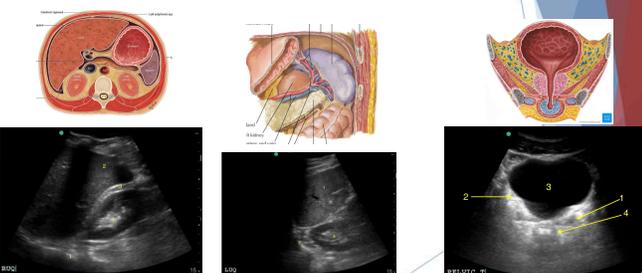
### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the I-AIM framework as it applies to the E-FAST exam.
- Identify the indications for the E-FAST.
- Know how to position the patient for the E-FAST.
- Understand how to acquire the necessary images for the E-FAST.
- Interpret the ultrasound images and use the results to augment medical decision-making.



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### FAST: I-AIM FRAMEWORK



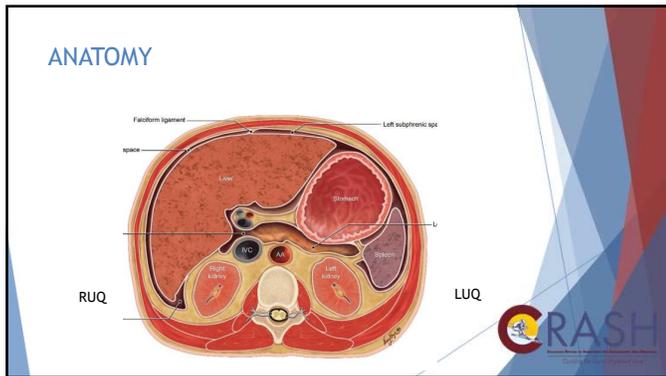
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### INTRODUCTION: FAST

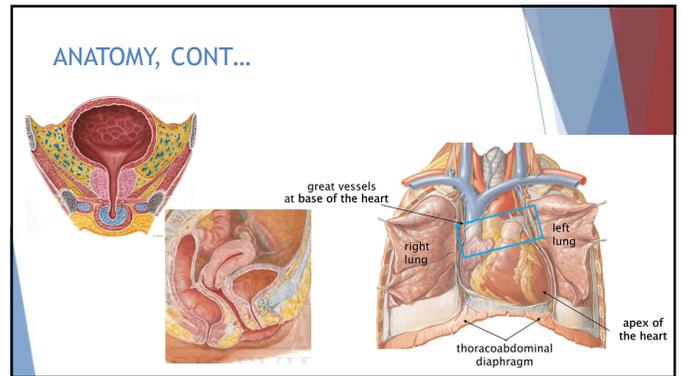
- FAST: **F**ocused **A**ssessment with **S**onography in **T**rauma
- Grace Rozycki: trauma surgeon who developed protocol to obtain the four FAST images
  - Peri-hepatic right upper quadrant (RUQ) view
  - Peri-splenic left upper quadrant (LUQ) view
  - Pelvic view (longitudinal and short axis)
  - Subcostal four-chamber (SC4C) view
- Excellent specificity, moderate sensitivity  
→ best initial imaging modality, but negative FAST necessitates additional measures




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### I-AIM FRAMEWORK

Focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST) for the regional anesthesiologist and pain specialist

William Clark Manson,<sup>1</sup> Meghan Kirksey,<sup>2</sup> Jan Boublik,<sup>3</sup> Christopher L Wu,<sup>4</sup> Stephen C Haskins<sup>4</sup>

- I**ndication
- A**cquisition
- I**nterpret
- M**edical decision-making



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### INDICATION

**Box 1 Clinical indications for the focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST) exam**

- ▶ Hypotension in the postanesthesia care unit (PACU).
- ▶ Narrowing the differential diagnosis in patients who are critically ill.
- ▶ Nausea and/or abdominal pain following hip arthroscopy.
- ▶ Identify a pericardial effusion causing tamponade physiology.
- ▶ Persistent hypotension in the intensive care unit (ICU).
- ▶ Initial evaluation of hypotensive trauma patients.
- ▶ Re-evaluation of trauma patients.

- NOT a definitive imaging modality
- Does NOT rule out free fluid in abdomen (best w/ 300 - 1000cc)

**I**AIFE: intra-abdominal fluid extravasation

Manson WC, Shen HA, Vande KL, et al. Diagnosis of intraperitoneal fluid extravasation after hip arthroscopy with point-of-care ultrasonography was identified primarily as an increased risk for postoperative pain. *Anesth Analg* 2017;124:750-6.



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### ACQUISITION

- Probe selection: curvilinear (+/- phased array, for subcostal four-chamber)
- On-screen orientation marker:
  - curvilinear: LEFT
  - cardiac: RIGHT




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### ACQUISITION, CONT...

- Patient positioning
  - supine, w/ arms abducted (or raised overhead, if possible)
  - slight T-berg will increase RUQ and pelvic sensitivity
  - generous fanning



Figure 2 (A) Patient position for the FAST exam. (B) Probe positions for the FAST exam. FAST, focused assessment with sonography in trauma.

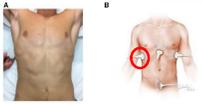


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### INTERPRETATION, RIGHT UPPER QUADRANT (RUQ)

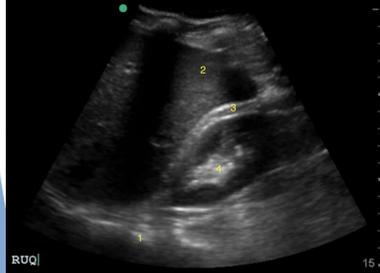


- orientation marker cephalad (coronal plane)
- b/t 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> intercostal spaces
- mid-posterior axillary line
- **!! MUST VISUALIZE LOWER LIVER TIP !!**




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### INTERPRETATION, RIGHT UPPER QUADRANT (RUQ), CONT...

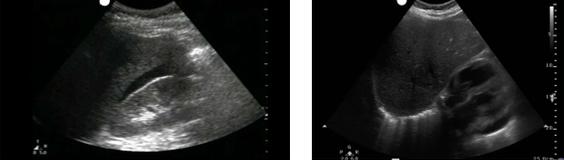


1. Spine
2. Liver
3. Hepato-renal ligament (Morison's Pouch)
  - most dependent (common) area to pool
  - pools once 500cc accumulates
  - high index of suspicion → repeat T-berg
4. Kidney



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### INTERPRETATION, RIGHT UPPER QUADRANT (RUQ), CONT...



- Fluid in Morison's pouch
  - indeterminate due to image quality
  - free fluid **IS** visualized in peritoneal cavity
  - free fluid **IS NOT** visualized in peritoneal cavity



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### INTERPRETATION, LEFT UPPER QUADRANT (LUQ)

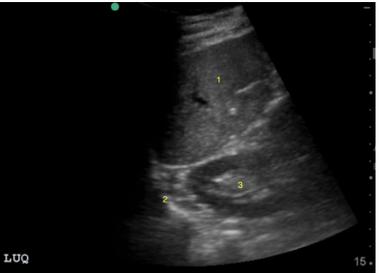


- orientation marker cephalad (coronal plane)
- b/t 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> intercostal spaces
- posterior axillary line
  - spleen in smaller than the liver
  - spleen in more posterior
  - stomach interferes
- **!! MUST VISUALIZE INFERIOR POLE OF KIDNEY !!**




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### INTERPRETATION, LEFT UPPER QUADRANT (LUQ), CONT...

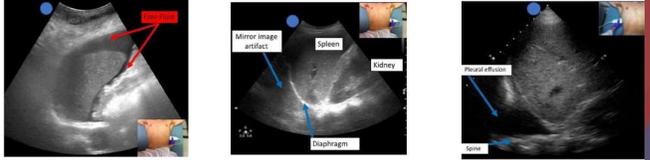


1. Spleen
2. Diaphragm
3. Kidney



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### INTERPRETATION, LEFT UPPER QUADRANT (LUQ), CONT...



Free fluid

Mirror image artifact

Spine sign fluid in thorax



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### INTERPRETATION, PELVIC, MALE

- orientation marker cephalad, lateral/medial
- suprapubic area
- Planes:
  - Transverse
  - sagittal

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### INTERPRETATION, PELVIC, MALE, CONT...

- Seminal vesicle
- Posterior acoustic enhancement
- Bladder
- Rectum
- Prostate

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### INTERPRETATION, PELVIC, FEMALE

- Uterus
- Recto-uterine space (pouch of Douglas)
- Vesiculo-uterine space
- Bladder

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### INTERPRETATION, PELVIC, CONT...

- Bladder volume =  $0.75 * D1 * D2 * D3$
- >500cc = damage to detrusor muscle
- Margin of error = +/- 200cc

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### INTERPRETATION, SUBCOSTAL FOUR-CHAMBER (S4C)

- hold like a screw-driver
- orientation marker initially to patient's right, then 10-15 degrees counterclockwise
- deep inspiration improves imaging

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### SUBCOSTAL FOUR-CHAMBER (S4C)

- Positioning: supine position; if poor views, place pillow behind knees to reduce abdominal tone
- Breathing: optimized w/ partial or full inhale followed by breath hold (diaphragm falls, probe closer to heart)
- Probe position: place probe 1-2 cm below xiphoid process, indicator to patient's (L), pushed down into patient's abdomen, and forward (create window using liver).

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### INTERPRETATION, SUBCOSTAL FOUR-CHAMBER (S4C), CONT...

1. left atrium
2. right ventricle
3. left ventricle
4. tricuspid valve
5. interatrial septum
6. liver
7. right atrium
8. mitral valve
9. Inter-ventricular septum

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### INTERPRETATION, SUBCOSTAL FOUR-CHAMBER (S4C), CONT...

Pericardial effusion

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### MEDICAL DECISION-MAKING

	RUQ	LUQ	PELVIC	CARDIAC	YES / NO	OVERALL
Free fluid IS visualized						
Free fluid IS NOT visualized						
Indeterminate						

FREE FLUID?

NO → HDS? → NO: - repeat in T-berg, - continued fluid resuscitation, - other dx steps; YES: - 2<sup>nd</sup> survey, - other dx steps

YES → HDS? → NO: - surgical consult; YES: - observation, - 2<sup>nd</sup> survey, - other dx steps, - consult

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### REVIEW AND REFERENCES

Manson WC, Kirksey M, Boublík J, Wu CL, Haskins SC. Focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST) for the regional anesthesiologist and pain specialist. Reg Anesth Pain Med. 2019 May;44(5):540-548. doi: 10.1136/rapm-2018-100312. Epub 2019 Mar 21. PMID: 30902912.

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### I-AIM FRAMEWORK

Intensive Care Med (2022), 56(17), 901  
DOI: 10.1177/0954679622112124

CONFERENCE REPORTS AND EXPERT PANEL

**International evidence-based recommendations for point-of-care lung ultrasound**

**Indication**

**Acquisition**

**Interpret**

**Medical decision-making**

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### INDICATION

(I) Indication

Diagnostic Tool

- Unexplained respiratory symptoms (dyspnea, pleuritic chest pain) or signs (tachypnea, desaturation, abnormal finding on respiratory physical examination)
- Unkown chest radiograph finding
- Surveillance of:
  - Pneumothorax
  - Pleural effusion
  - Airspace disease (increased lung density)
    - Extra Vascular Lung Water (e.g., cardiogenic or nonhydrostatic pulmonary edema—ARDS, idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, lung consolidation, pneumothorax, pulmonary infarct)
    - Pne (e.g., infection, pneumonitis, lung consolidation)
    - Blood (e.g., alveolar hemorrhage)
    - Protein/Collagen (e.g., idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, alveolar proteinosis, lung consolidation, pulmonary infarct)
    - Cells (e.g., primary or metastatic lung cancer)
    - Lipids (e.g., lipid pneumonia)
  - Decreased lung aeration with no increased lung weight (i.e., atelectasis)

Monitoring and Prognostic tool

- Mechanical ventilation
  - Effectiveness of PEEP
  - Need for recruitment
  - Early signs of overdistension, resolution, changes in characteristics
  - Effectiveness of recruitment: progression or resolution of lung desaturation/increased density
  - Effectiveness of prone position or increase in size
  - Effectiveness of prone position with some prognosis (heart failure and end-stage renal disease)

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## ACQUISITION

**(A) Acquisition PATIENT**

- Position
  - o Pneumothorax: supine
  - o Effusion: supine or semisitting
  - o Interstitial syndrome/consolidation: supine or semisitting
  - o Posterior lung zones: torso rotation and ipsilateral arm abduction
- Adjust ambient light
- Expose and drape hemithorax
- Surface preparation (adjust monitoring cables/leads and dressings, if possible)

**PROBE**

- Probe selection
  - o Pleural line: consider higher frequency probe ( $\geq 5$  MHz)
  - o Posterior/Supradiaphragmatic lung: curvilinear, microconvex, or phased array probe
  - o Lung parenchyma: consider curvilinear, microconvex, or phased array probe
- Probe orientation: marker placed cephalad or toward patient's right



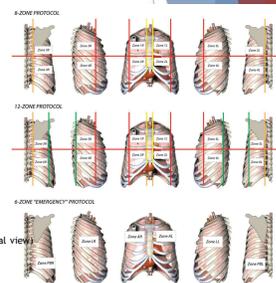
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## ACQUISITION, CONT...

**Scan**

**Antero-Lateral Lung:**

- STEP 1: Sagittal scanning plane with visualization of minimum two ribs; identify pleura
- STEP 2: Tilt the probe to achieve probe angulation perpendicular to pleural line; confirm perpendicular angle by the presence of A-line pattern (in absence of B-lines) and/or best definition of pleural line appearance
- STEP 3: Hold transducer still to identify pleural movement with respiration (M-mode if required)
- STEP 4: Adjust depth to identify vertical artifacts/B-lines, sliding/pulse and pleural line characteristics



1. mid-clavicular line, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> intercostal space ("anterior view")
2. Anterior axillary line, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space ("antero-lateral view")
3. Mid-to posterior axillary line, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> intercostal space ("postero-lateral view")

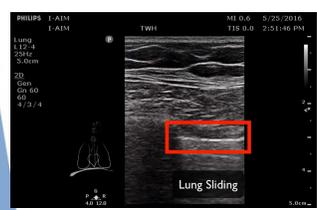
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## INTERPRETATION

**Lung sliding**

Shimmering movement synchronous with respiration at the pleural line indicating sliding of the visceral pleura against the parietal pleura (Supplemental Digital Content 2, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B514>)

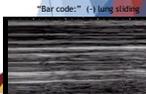
- Present in normal lung or in pathologic conditions that do not affect ventilation
- Absent or reduced when visceral pleura does not slide against parietal pleura: apnea, inflammatory adhesions, loss of lung expansion (overinflation/distension or severe bullous disease), decrease in lung compliance, airway obstruction/atelectasis, pleural symphysis, endobronchial intubation
- Absent when visceral and parietal pleura are separated (i.e., pneumothorax; Supplemental Digital Content 1, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B515>)



**"Beach:" (+) lung sliding**



**"Bar code:" (-) lung sliding**



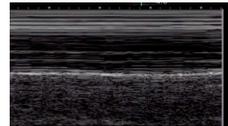
**These are "adjuncts;" they are NOT studied, recognized**



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## INTERPRETATION, CONT...

**"Beach:" (+) lung sliding**



**"Bar code:" (-) lung sliding**



**These are "adjuncts;" they are NOT studied, recognized "signs"**

- M-mode's extremely high temporal resolution may result in any tissue movement being interpreted as lung pulse
- An absence of lung sliding DOES NOT MEAN PNEUMOTHORAX!!
- M-mode in isolation can miss subcutaneous emphysema



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## MEDICAL DECISION-MAKING, CONT...

**CHEST** Original Research

**Occult Traumatic Pneumothorax\***  
Diagnostic Accuracy of Lung Ultrasonography in the Emergency Department

Gino Saldù, MD, American Triage, MD, Sara Siler, MD, Giulio Pignatelli, MD, Monica Ja Sala, MD, and Nicola Cavallone, MD

**Background:** The role of chest ultrasonography (US) in the diagnosis of pneumothorax (PTX) has been established, but how it compares with lung CT remains in the diagnosis of occult PTX and in the determination of its topographic extension has not yet been completely evaluated. **Objective:** To determine the diagnostic accuracy of chest US in the emergency department (ED) in the diagnosis of occult PTX in trauma patients and define its ability to determine PTX extension. **Design:** An 18-month retrospective study. **Patients:** A total of 100 trauma, spontaneously breathing patients who had been admitted to the ED for chest trauma or problems. **Methods:** All eligible patients underwent a standard anteroposterior supine chest radiograph (Rx) and a spiral CT lung scan within 1 h of ED admission. Lung US was carried out by an operator who was unaware of the other examination results. Both the diagnosis and the quantitative determination of the PTX. **Results:** Twenty-five traumatic PTXs were detected in the 214 hemithoraces (109 patients, 2 patients had a bilateral PTX) evaluated by spiral CT scan of them, only 13 (27 PTXs (56%)) were revealed by chest Rx sensitivity, 82% specificity, 100% PPV, while 21 of 25 PTXs (84%) were identified by lung US with one false-positive result (sensitivity, 84% specificity, 96.4%). In 10 of 25 cases, there was agreement on the extension of the PTX between CT lung scan and lung US with a mean difference of 1.8 cm (range, 0 to 4.5 cm) in the localization of intersegmental air extension. This fit was not able to give quantitative results. **Conclusions:** Lung US scans carried out in the ED detect occult PTX and its extension with an accuracy that is close to high in the references standard CT. (CRASH 2006, 133:204-211)




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## INTERPRETATION, CONT...

**A-lines**

Hyperechoic horizontal lines at increasing depth separated by some distance as that between the probe and the pleural line. Considered reverberation artifacts arising from the strongly reflective interfaces of the probe and pleural line (Supplemental Digital Content 2, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B514>)

- Present when air is homogeneously distributed below the pleural line:
  - o Normally aerated lung
  - o Pneumothorax
  - o Pathologic conditions with minimal effect on lung aeration (e.g., acute pulmonary embolism, asthma/acute COPD exacerbation, early phases of airway obstruction/atelectasis)
- Absent or reduced when:
  - o Increased lung density and nonhomogeneous distribution of air
  - o Nonperpendicular angulation of the ultrasound beam with the pleural line (Supplemental Digital Content 2, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B514>)

**PRO TIP: probe must be perpendicular to pleura, not chest wall**




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## INTERPRETATION, CONT...

**B-lines and interstitial syndrome**

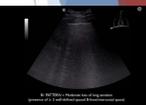
Discrete laser-like, vertical, hyperechoic artifacts that arise from the pleural line, extend to the bottom of the screen without fading, and move synchronously with lung sliding (Supplemental Digital Content 6, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B516> and Supplemental Digital Content 8, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B520>)

Three or more B-lines/intercostal space (apical scan) represent a positive region of increased lung density:

- Normal aeration: fewer than two isolated B-lines/intercostal space
- Moderate loss of lung aeration (B1 pattern): presence of > 3 well-defined spaced B-lines/intercostal space
- Severe loss of lung aeration (B2 pattern): multiple coalescent B-lines/intercostal space.<sup>19,20</sup>

Vertical artifacts at the transition from consolidated to normally aerated lung ("shred sign") represent the same physical and pathophysiological phenomenon as B-lines, although not defined as such.<sup>21</sup>

- Present in conditions associated with increased lung density and involvement of alveolar units in close relationship with visceral pleura such as:
  - Lung deflation (i.e., atelectasis)
  - Normal pattern (if isolated at lung bases)
- Increased lung weight:
  - Extra-vascular lung water (e.g., cardiogenic or non-hydrostatic pulmonary edema—ARDS, idiopathic interstitial pneumonitis, lung consolidation, pneumonitis, pulmonary infarct)
  - Ru (e.g., infection, pneumonitis, lung consolidation)
  - Blood (e.g., alveolar hemorrhage)
  - Protein/Collagen (e.g., idiopathic interstitial pneumonitis, alveolar proteinosis, lung consolidation, pulmonary infarct)
  - Cells (e.g., primary or metastatic lung cancer)
  - Lipids (e.g., lipid pneumonia)
- Absent when visceral and parietal pleura are separated (i.e., pneumothorax, Supplemental Digital Content 1, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B515>) and in normally aerated lung



B-2 Lines (interstitial syndrome)  
normal P1 (normal aeration)

B-lines are a sign of increased lung density and appear as a vertical ring-down artifact that propagates down from the pleural line, widens as it descends to the bottom of the screen, and usually (BUT NOT ALWAYS) effaces A-lines where the two lines intersect.

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## INTERPRETATION, CONT...

**Pleural effusion**

Anechoic (fluid) collection between the parietal and visceral pleura (Supplemental Digital Content 2, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B514> and Supplemental Digital Content 3, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B515>). Associated with positive spine sign and absent curtain sign (Supplemental Digital Content 3, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B515> and Supplemental Digital Content 4, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B519>)

- Present most often in supradiaphragmatic regions; complex or loculated collections may be elsewhere
- Note: Ultrasound cannot differentiate the nature of the pleural effusion (e.g., hemothorax, transudate, exudate) although visualization of mobile echotic particles or septa is highly suggestive of complex effusion (e.g., empyema; Supplemental Digital Content 3, <http://links.lww.com/ALN/B515>)



FLUID

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## MEDICAL DECISION-MAKING

**Interpretation**

**Fluid**

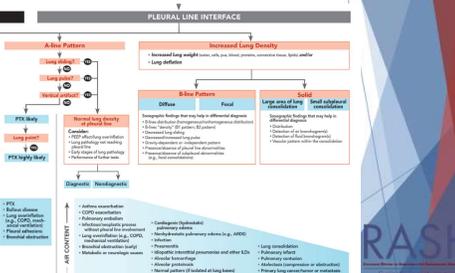
- Pleural effusion
- Subcutaneous emphysema
- Other

**A-line Patterns**

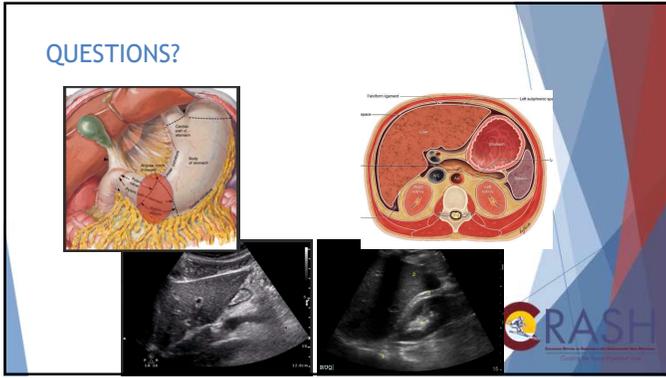
- Lung sliding
- Lung point
- Normal aeration
- Consolidation
- Shred sign
- PTX highly likely
- PTX likely
- PTX unlikely
- PTX highly unlikely

**Increased Lung Density**

- Increased lung weight seen with normal pleural interface, fluid, and/or A-line deflation
- Diffuse**
- Spindle**
- Large areas of lung consolidation**
- Small subpleural consolidations**



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