UPPER EXTREMITY TRAUMA PROTOCOL

Services Covering/Included in Protocol:
TACS; Hand- PRS & Ortho; Ortho Trauma

Isolated Upper Extremity Trauma Guidelines

Isolated is defined as a zone of injury without apparent secondary injury sites (example: Gunshot wound to wrist –Yes; Gunshot wounds to wrist AND abdomen –No)

FOR ANY ZONE, if the patient is unstable or critical: CALL TACS

TACS will stabilize patient while additional services respond

injury zone: Shoulder to Elbow:

Compartment syndrome: **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA**

Any injury that includes a potential vascular injury in upper arm: **CALL TACS**

Soft tissue injury without major bony pathology: laceration, gunshot wound, abscess:
CALL ORTHO TRAUMA

Bony injury: **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA**

Injury zone: Elbow to forearm:

Compartment syndrome: **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA**
(Hand will be consulted by Ortho Trauma if necessary for distal compartment syndrome)

Soft tissue injury without major bony pathology: Lacerations, gunshot wounds, soft tissue abscess, mangled extremity at forearm
CALL ORTHO TRAUMA

Bony injury: closed and open elbow and forearm fractures
CALL ORTHO TRAUMA (Ortho trauma will consult hand if appropriate)

injury zone: Distal Forearm to Fingers

Compartment syndrome of the hand: **CALL HAND**

Soft tissue injury without major bony pathology: Lacerations, gunshot wounds
Mangled hand (Example: Saw injury to wrist or hand, attempted self-harm with active bleeding at wrist)
CALL HAND

Bony injury to distal radius, carpals, metacarpals, digits: **CALL HAND**

Polytrauma Guidelines

Defined as any multiply injured patient with multiple extremity fractures (example: Femur fracture, Scapula fracture AND distal radius fracture): **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA (Ortho trauma will consult hand if more appropriate for wrist/hand injuries)**

Necrotizing soft tissue infection (NSTI, necrotizing fasciitis)

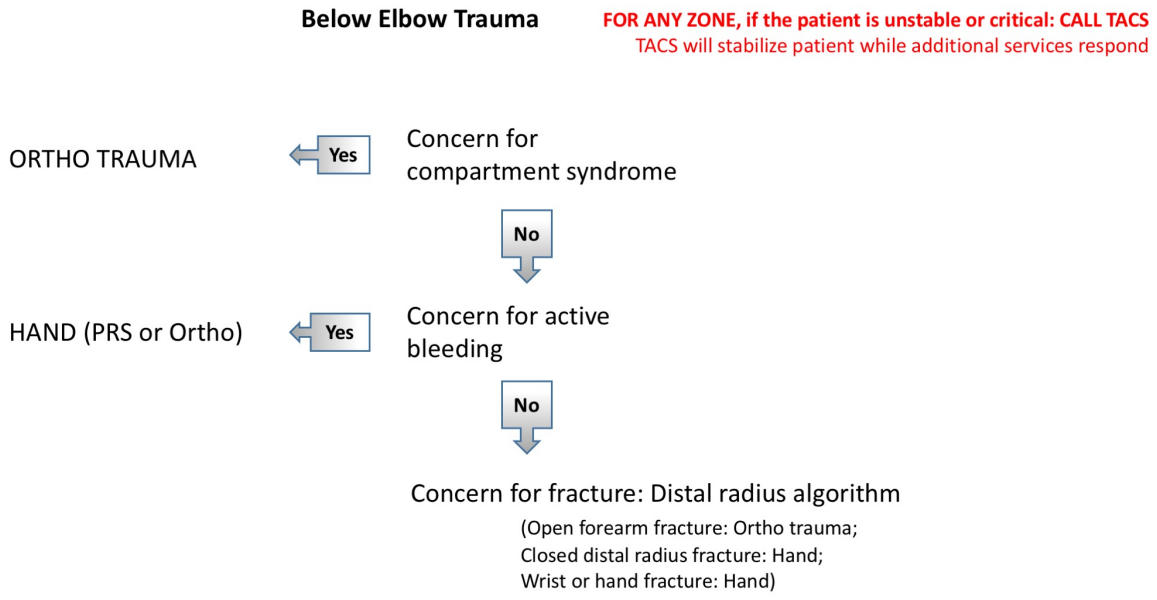
If infection above or proximal to wrist: **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA (TACS to be consulted by Ortho Trauma if needed)**

If infection distal to wrist, or involves the hand and fingers: **CALL HAND**

IVDA abscess

If infection in upper arm, antecubital fossa, forearm: **CALL ORTHO TRAUMA**

If infection is distal to the wrist, involving the hand and fingers: **CALL HAND**



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