
TRAUMA RULES 2

INCORPORATING MILITARY TRAUMA RULES

COLONEL

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AND

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Contents

Contributors, viii

Preface to the second edition, ix

Preface to the first edition, x

The primary directives

- 1** Anxiety provokes memory loss: so learn a system and stick to it, 3
- 2** All 4 one and one for all, 5
- 3** Civilian and military trauma care is different, 7

Preparation

- 4** Any time preparing is time well spent, 11
- 5** If in doubt, call the Trauma Team, 12
- 6** Save yourself before the casualty, 15
- 7** The Team Leader is always right, 17

Approach to the patient

- 8** Assume the worst and proceed accordingly, 21
- 9** Read the wreckage, 22
- 10** Do a frisk or take a risk, 24
- 11** Don't let the obvious distract from the occult, 25
- 12** The Trauma Team can only look or listen, not both, 27

Initial assessment and resuscitation

- 13** Tourniquets save lives, 31
- 14** If the bleeding is dramatic, use a novel haemostatic, 33
- 15** If you decide to crack the chest, survival's almost nil at best, 35
- 16** The airway is more important than the cervical spine, 37

CONTENTS

- 17 When NEXUS guidelines clear the spine, the spinal board's a waste of time, 38
- 18 All trauma patients are dying for oxygen, 41
- 19 It is not lack of intubation that kills, it is lack of oxygenation, 43
- 20 Do not delay with a burned airway, 45
- 21 Think of cricothyrotomy when all else fails, 47
- 22 Look at the neck TWELVE times in the primary survey, 49
- 23 A hard collar does not protect the cervical spine, 51
- 24 All Trauma surgeons Occasionally Miss Cervical Fractures, 53
- 25 When patients with facial injuries look up at heaven they will soon be there, 54
- 26 Blood on the floor is lost forever more, 55
- 27 Short and thick does the trick, 57
- 28 Hidden blood loss will CRAMP your resuscitation, 59
- 29 Surgery does not follow resuscitation, it is part of resuscitation, 60
- 30 The stabbed stay stabbed until they reach theatre, 61
- 31 O Negative is good, but you can have too much of a good thing, 62
- 32 An injury above and below the abdomen implies an injury *in* the abdomen, 65
- 33 A penetrating wound below the nipple involves the abdomen, 67
- 34 Examination of the abdomen is as reliable as flipping a coin, 68
- 35 Neurogenic shock is hypovolaemic shock until proved otherwise, 69
- 36 Think of the causes of PEA or your patient is for THE CHOP, 70
- 37 Respiratory rate is the most sensitive indicator of deterioration, but nurses record TP not TPR, 72
- 38 Head injury alone does not cause hypotension, 75
- 39 Resuscitate the mother and the baby will look after itself, 77
- 40 Children are not small adults, 79
- 41 Everyone is equal, but some are more equal than others, 80
- 42 Limb splintage is part of resuscitation, 83
- 43 The Glasgow Coma Scale does not measure prognosis, 85
- 44 A patient has a front, a back, two sides, a top and a bottom, 87
- 45 Put a finger in before putting a tube in, 89
- 46 The agitated patient will calm down while deteriorating, 91
- 47 You are not dead until you are death warmed up, 92
- 48 The golden rule is golden fluid in the golden hour, 93
- 49 It doesn't hurt to give analgesia, 95

Investigation and definitive care

- 50** The golden hour belongs to the patient, 99
- 51** You can assess vision with the eyes closed, 100
- 52** You may read the newspaper, but you cannot read the DPL, 101
- 53** FAST procedure, quick decision, 105
- 54** A tension pneumothorax cannot be diagnosed on a chest X-ray, 107
- 55** A supine chest X-ray may be worse than no chest X-ray at all, 108
- 56** Investigation must never impede resuscitation, 109
- 57** Serial blood gases are the signposts on the road to resuscitation, 111
- 58** Patients are transferred, not their injuries or investigations, 112
- 59** Never believe a transferring hospital, 113
- 60** Better a negative laparotomy than a positive postmortem, 115
- 61** Go down the middle and be liberal, 117
- 62** Fix the pelvis to fix the bleeding, 119
- 63** Biology is the mother of all fixation, 120
- 64** The solution to pollution is dilution, 121
- 65** It doesn't pay to be complacent about an elderly fracture of the rib, 123
- 66** A missed tertiary survey is a missed injury, 125
- 67** With multiple casualties do the most for the most, 127
- 68** Black is beautiful, and some things are never as black as they seem, 128
- 69** Predicting survival is hit and miss with ISS and TRISS, 129
- 70** Stop the clot before it stops the patient, 131

The last rule Death is the only certainty in life, 132

Reader's rules, 133

References, 134

Index, 141

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Preface to the second edition

This second edition of *Trauma Rules* has been expanded (there are 14 new rules) and thoroughly updated to take account of changes in trauma care practice in the last decade. You will find that many of the rules have multiple references that give weight to your teaching or directions in the resuscitation room.

Perhaps the greatest change in this edition is the addition of military trauma rules. Military trauma is different. There is a different pattern of injury to civilian practice, different human resources and limited diagnostic and treatment facilities in the field. Where important differences exist these are highlighted. But military trauma care is not necessarily to a lesser standard. Indeed, by reading the military rules you will learn a new paradigm for trauma care and be exposed to cutting edge practices that may not yet be widely exploited in civilian trauma care.

We are sure you will enjoy this second edition: above all, learning must be fun!

Tim Hodgetts
Lee Turner
Birmingham and Palmerston North
2006

Preface to the first edition

The management of major trauma may seem to be a complex issue but it can be approached in a systematic manner. This book combines a systematic approach with a novel series of trauma rules to trigger the memory when faced with a seriously injured patient.

Each rule is accompanied by the reason, the exceptions to the rule and, where appropriate, an illustration highlighting a key aspect of the rule.

Learning should be fun, and this book is designed to be fun to read. It is hoped that these trauma rules may be used by those involved in trauma education at all professional levels to emphasize the key issues in trauma management and to perpetuate a high standard of trauma care.

Trauma Rules is an *aide memoire* and supplements existing textbooks on this subject. Readers who require a more extensive understanding of the management of trauma are referred to the following books, also published by BMJ Publishing Group.

- *ABC of Major Trauma*
- *Trauma: Beyond the Resuscitation Room*

Tim Hodgetts
Stephen Deane
Keith Gunning
London and Sydney

**Rules are made to be broken,
That's not what you should do.
For one of these days these rules
Will help you save a life or two.**

The primary directives

