

ABC of Major Trauma

FOURTH EDITION

Edited by David V. Skinner and Peter A. Driscoll



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Major Trauma

Fourth Edition

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Foreword

As a contributor and user of this book, I am delighted to see a fourth edition published. It represents a most useful core text for those seeking a contemporary practical guide to assess and deliver the best trauma care for those patients who are “candidate major traumas”. All countries and healthcare systems are different and some changing, but the core principles of management are common. This text, through its breadth of expert contributors, succinctly describes these. Reading each chapter feels like you've just had a really good tutorial on the subject and represents a very efficient method of acquiring knowledge. I would certainly recommend you keep a copy of this publication close by whether preparing for your on-call day or a teaching session.

*Keith Willett
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Preface

This edition of the *ABC of Major Trauma* has had a long gestation, being 12 years since the third edition.

Trauma care continues to evolve and improve both in the 'front line' and nationally with the development of Trauma Centres and supporting networks. Prevention is also playing its part, with deaths on the roads continuing to fall.

There is, however, no room for complacency and we hope this fourth edition will remind our readership of the crucial importance of a thorough, stepwise assessment of the trauma patient and that attention to detail, not least in spinal care, can avoid the devastating consequences of the 'second' injury.

This edition sees extensive revision of all its chapters and the addition of further material. At the time of publishing all information is current.

The book is aimed at all clinicians involved in front line trauma care, paramedics, hospital doctors and nurses as well as those members of the 'team', crucial to optimal management, including radiographers, radiologists and laboratory staff.

Chapter 29 reminds us of the excellent facilities available to us in UK practice. However, this chapter also shows us that simple manoeuvres can be life saving in the Third World environment.

The continuing conflicts around the world involving UK armed forces has resulted in improved trauma management in these conflict zones. Lessons learnt and techniques developed have been shared with civilian clinicians to the benefit of patients. Many authors in this edition have put themselves in 'harms way' to manage victims of conflict. This edition is dedicated to them.

David V. Skinner