

1. Geriatric Trauma

Learning Objectives:

Understand Unique Trauma Considerations in Older Adults

- Describe how physiologic and anatomic changes with aging impact trauma assessment and resuscitation.
- Recognize how trauma principles (e.g., ATLS) must be adapted for older adults, including altered presentation of shock and abnormal vital signs.
- Understand the concept of frailty and its implications for trauma care.
- Recognize common injury patterns in older adults, including head trauma, rib fractures, and cervical spine injuries.
- Describe appropriate imaging strategies based on mechanism and risk profile.

Recognize adaptations to clinical decision rules and immobilization in older adults

- Understand the applicability and limitations of clinical decision rules for imaging of trauma injuries in older adults including:
 - Canadian CT Head Rules
 - Canadian C-Spine Rules
 - Nexus Spine Rules
 - Falls Decision Rule
- Utilize validated tools to recognize occult shock and subtle trauma presentations. (ex. Shock index, Age-Shock Index)
- Assess and manage cognitive impairment, multi-comorbidity and polypharmacy as part of trauma care.

Address Anticoagulation in Geriatric Trauma

- Explore the limited influence of anticoagulation as a factor in decision-making for CT-head imaging in older adults
- Understand the principles of anticoagulation reversal in the management of geriatric trauma

Address System-Level and Patient-Value Considerations

- Recognize the consequences of undertriage in older trauma patients.
- Understand adaptations in triage criteria and care pathways for geriatric trauma.
- Rapidly establish and document goals of care in serious or life-threatening presentations.

- Explore treatment decisions based on individual benefit-risk assessment, incorporating patient values, frailty and goals instead of age alone.
- Understand the role of interdisciplinary evaluation in each of the assessment, recovery and transitions of care steps for older trauma patients, including minor trauma and fractures.