

ABDOMINAL INJURIES

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Conceptually four major systems maybe .involved in civilian or wartime traumatic injuries viz; cerebrospinal, chest, abdominal & musculoskeletal! systems. Multiple injuries involving these systems pose diagnostic & therapeutic challenges having a direct impact on overall mortality & morbidity of these causalities-

Non penetrating abdominal injuries are, the less clinically overt injuries that may be frequently missed in these cases.

The spectrum of pitfalls in management of abdominal injuries ranges from missing injuries (during clinical assessment or even intraoperatively) , to unnecessary treatment in the form of non therapeutic laparotomy, failure to identify patients that would have benefited from a conservative approach, or were suited to staged treatment (orthodox treatment to an improper patient). Perhaps the climax of the therapeutic complications is the unwarranted development of the abdominal compartmental syndrome.

Abdominal injuries would be discussed to highlight anatomical considerations directly influencing clinical assessment in trauma, a etiologic considerations with their impact on diagnosis & treatment and finally an algorithmic plan of management would be presented.