

CHEST TRAUMA
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- The fact that it has become possible in recent decades for millions of people to travel at high speed had led to a phenomenal increase in blunt injury to the chest - **a most lethal type of injury**.
- All casualties and particularly children who have been exposed to blunt chest injury may have sustained highly lethal internal lesions (rupture of the heart, the aorta or the major airway, for example, or contusion of the heart although the external stigmata of chest injury may be quite trivial or even absent altogether).
- For this reason any casualty who has sustained blunt trauma to the chest should be considered seriously injured until proved otherwise-
- The mechanism of injury to the chest, the initial assessment of the patient with thoracic injury and the algorithm of management of these patients will be discussed.