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Ishant Kumar Chaurasia

Fortis OPJ Hospital, India

Management of gunshot injuries

Statement of the Problem: Any discussion of gunshot injuries tends to evoke emotional reactions from citizens on both sides of the political issues. The simple fact remains that gunshot injuries are one of the major cause of morbidity and mortality in various cities in the world.

Purpose: It is therefore essential for surgeons who service these emergency departments to have a clear understanding of gunshot injuries and their management. This presentation validates recommendations of the international guidelines on gunshot trauma that advocate operative intervention to reduce rates of patient morbidity and the inherent limitations of complications.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: This presentation is based on database of 4 patients presenting with gunshot wound trauma. The standard trauma evaluation protocols were used for all. Management was dictated by the location of a penetrating injury and associated traumatic injuries. Emergency operative intervention with maximum salvage rule applied.

Findings: All patients attended in emergency room with unstable vitals and hemodynamic instability. Exploration was performed in all the patients. Chest and lung injury was found in 1 patient undergoing exploration, 2 of whom had abdominal trauma including bowel and spleen injury, undergone bowel resection and splenectomy. One patient presented with retroperitoneal peri-lumbar trauma undergone local exploration and damage control surgery. Most of the cases were associated with internal bleed and soft tissue injury. Postoperative complications occurred infrequently: Only one patient developed wound infection.

Conclusion & Significance: Prompt and accurate assessment of the gunshot injuries is essential, both clinically and radiographically. Gunshot wounds can injure organs directly as well as those located close to the bullet tract. These injuries may be found in adjacent cavities not traversed by the bullet. A high index of suspicion, as well as imaging, is important to diagnose and grade these injuries.

Biography

Ishant Kumar Chaurasia has his expertise in evaluation and passion in improving health and well-being. He has completed his MBBS in 2012 and MS in General Surgery in 2016. He has worked in various prestigious centers like Wockhardt Mumbai, TejVedaant Group of Hospitals, Jaslok Hospital, etc. Currently, he is working as a Consultant Laparoscopic Surgeon at Fortis OPJ Hospital, India.

ishant.chaurasia@jspl.com

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