RECENT UPDATES IN MANAGEMENT OF CHEST TRAUMA

Essay

Submitted for partial fulfillment of Master Degree in
General Surgery

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٢٠٠٨

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

نَرْفَعُ دَرَجَاتٍ مَّن نَّشَاءُ
وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ

صدق الله العظيم
سورة يوسف
الآية (٧٦)

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I feel always indebted to **Allah**, *the most kind and the most merciful.*

I wish to express my deep thanks and sincere gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Twafik Saad Fahim**, *Professor of General surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for his continuous support, guidance, valuable remarks and kind advice.*

My deepest thanks and gratefulness to **Prof. Dr. Hisham Abd Elrahman Zaki**, *Professor of Cardiothoracic surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his generous help and continuous encouragement. He provided me with valuable comments, knowledge and experience necessary for achieving this work.*

I am also profoundly grateful to **Dr. Hisham Adel Alaa Eldin**, *Assistant Professor of, General surgery Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for his continuous close supervision, support, constant help and his stimulating remarks throughout this study.*

I feel greatly indebted to **Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Kamal**, *Lecturer of General surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University for without his efforts this work would have never been completed. I owe his a lot for all the time he spent in revising every detail in this work.*

Special gratitude is directed towards my colleagues, and friends for their help and support offered to me during my whole residency and my whole life so that I was able to proceed in all the projects in my life.

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Introduction

Trauma is the ٣rd leading cause of death in the world exceeded only by cardiovascular diseases and cancer *(Cogbill et al., ٢٠٠٤)*.

With the growth of traffic, industrialization, in our society there has been a proportional increase in incidence of trauma and as a consequence of trauma to chest *(Fabian et al., ٢٠٠٣)*.

The earliest known medical writings have included description of thoracic injuries. The Smith Papyrus which was written ٣٠٠٠ B.C., described the care of three chest injury by Egyptian Imotep. In second century, Galen described a spectacular injury that left the heart exposed. *Rehn, (١٨٩٧)* was able to successfully suture a stab wound in the heart while *Harken (١٩٤٦)* reported an amazing experience of foreign body removal from the heart .Almost all other surgical attempts to correct cardiac injury awaited the extra corporeal circulation by Gibbon (١٩٥٧) *(Cogbill et al., ٢٠٠٤)*.

Thoracic injuries have contributed greatly to morbidity and mortality from trauma. The danger and importance of thoracic trauma lies in that the

result of all types of chest trauma in there acute phase is disrupted tissue perfusion with attendant hypoxia and metabolic acidosis .Therefore the initial care must involve an accurate diagnosis and appraisal of those anatomic or pathologic status that threaten the patient's life. All emergency care should be directed towards the establishment of a level of ventilation and cardiovascular function that will be compatible with survival *(Symbas, ٢٠٠٦)*.

These injuries may result from various forms of trauma penetrating, blunt or explosive trauma. The penetrating injuries are usually due to missile or stab wound injuries. In civilian life, the majority of injuries are due to stab wounds whereas in the military most of the injures are due to missile wounds *(Cogbill et al., ٢٠٠٤)*.

Trauma to the thorax may cause injury to any one or frequently more of the thoracic structures: heart, great vessel lungs ,major airways ,esophagus ,diaphragm and chest wall . Although injures of the intrathoracic sutures usually are accompanied by chest wall injuries, trauma of the intrathoracic organs may occur without a noticeable chest wall injury *(Fabian et al., ٢٠٠٦)*.