WARTIME VASCULAR INJURY			
Original Rele	ease/Approval	18 Dec 2004	Note: This CPG requires an annual review.
Reviewed:	May 2012	Approved:	7 Jun 2012
Supersedes: Vascular Injury, 7 Nov 2008			
☐ Minor Changes (or) ☐ Changes ar		⊠ Changes ar	re substantial and require a thorough reading of this CPG (or)
☐ Significant Changes In depth information		In depth informa	ation on specific vascular injuries; PI monitoring plan added

- **1. Goal**. To provide guidance on the diagnosis, treatment and surgical management of vascular injuries sustained by combat casualties.
- 2. Appendices.

6	EXTREMITY VASCULAR INJURY	APPENDIX A
14	TORSO VASCULAR INJURY ¹⁰	APPENDIX B
20	CERVICAL VASCULAR INJURY	APPENDIX C
23	MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS	APPENDIX D

- 3. Background. The treatment of vascular injuries in combat casualties can be a challenging endeavor in a resource limited environment and requires not only technical expertise on the part of the operating surgeon, but solid judgment on when to perform temporizing maneuvers versus definitive repairs. Surgeon's at all Level II and III facilities need to be intimately familiar with the use of vascular shuts as a means to stabilize a critically wounded casualty and then move them along the continuum of care.
 - a. **Epidemiology of Vascular Injury**. One in five (20%) battle injuries (non-return to duty) are coded with hemorrhage control not otherwise specified suggesting the presence of significant bleeding. Using codes for specific blood vessel injuries or repairs, the rate of vascular injury is 12% which is higher than the 1-3% reported in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Extremity vessels account for 70-80% of vascular injuries while 10-15% are in the cervical region and 5-10% in the torso. ^{2,3}
- **4.** Levels of Care and Vascular Injury. Each level or echelon of care has unique approaches to the management of vascular injury: ³
 - a. Level 1 Hemorrhage control (direct pressure, tourniquet or topical hemostatic agent) or other life-saving interventions and initiation of evacuation.
 - b. Level II Operations at forward operating locations are abbreviated (<1 hour), however intervention on extremity vascular injury is important and may make the difference in meaningful limb salvage. Primary amputation or ligation is also an acceptable damage control technique when other life-threatening injuries are present or the patient is in extremis. However if limb salvage is to be attempted, initiation of basic maneuvers including removal of tourniquet, exploration and control of the vascular injury, removal of clot (thrombectomy) and administration of heparinized saline through the inflow and outflow vessels are recommended. Restoration of flow can then be established using a temporary vascular shunt followed by fasciotomy and initiation of medical evacuation.

- c. Level III Removal of tourniquet(s) and any temporary vascular shunts placed at forward locations followed by definitive vascular repair using saphenous vein should be performed at this level. During aeromedical evacuation the extremity will be difficult to examine, therefore level III surgeons must assure adequacy of limb perfusion, fasciotomy and wound debridement. Primary amputation or ligation is also an acceptable damage control technique at this level of care when other life-threatening injuries are present or the patient is in extremis.
- d. Level IV Surveillance of vascular repair including a close assessment of soft tissue wounds and adequacy of tissue coverage in the operating room prior to continuing AIREVAC.
- e. Level V Surveillance of vascular repair with duplex or CTA as well as assessment of soft tissue wounds and adequacy of tissue coverage is performed at this level. In some instances, revision of at-risk repairs identified as having a stenosis or inadequate tissue coverage leaving them prone to infection and blowout is necessary. Finally, delayed revascularization of viable but poorly perfused extremities in which ligation was chosen as the initial method of management can be accomplished at this level.

5. Diagnosis of Vascular Injury.

- a. *Hard signs* such as hemorrhage or ischemia require immediate management in the operating room, generally with exploration of the injury site with wide exposure to enable vascular control. Ischemia in this situation is defined as the absence of Doppler signal in the extremity on multiple attempts over time, including after initiation of resuscitation and warming. When hard signs of injury are present, there is limited need for other diagnostic tests (i.e. CTA or angiography) which take extra time and may provide findings which cloud decision making.^{3,4,5}
- b. *Soft signs* such as proximity to major vessels, fracture pattern (i.e. posterior knee dislocation), bruising or hematoma or question regarding the presence or absence of a palpable pulse often require another diagnostic test. This additional test is commonly the continuous wave Doppler with our without calculation of the injured extremity index for traumatized limbs, and CTA or angiography for questionable torso and/or extremity vascular injuries.
- c. *The injured extremity index* is similar to the ankle-brachial index and is calculated using a manual blood pressure cuff and a continuous wave Doppler. The first step is to determine the pressure at which the arterial Doppler signal occludes in the injured extremity which is the numerator in the equation. Next the cuff and Doppler are moved to the uninjured extremity and the pressure at which the arterial Doppler signal occludes is recorded as the denominator in the ratio. An injured extremity index greater than 0.90 is normal and has a high specificity for excluding extremity vascular injury.
- d. *Angiography* has limited utility in the diagnosis of wartime extremity vascular injury which is, in part, related to the availability and quality of imaging technology in austere environments. Additionally, extremity vasoconstriction associated with shock and hypothermia in the young injured patient may lead to confusing or false positive findings on angiography. Angiography has its greatest utility in the setting of multiple penetrating

wounds at various levels of the same extremity and when performed should be done via a cut down on the femoral artery using a 19-21 gauge butterfly needle to inject contrast. In most instances it is acceptable to forego angiography and use an incision to expose the segment in question with the plan to ligate, shunt or repair the vascular injury.

e. *CTA* is increasingly available in a mature theater of war and has its greatest utility in the diagnosis and triage of torso and neck wounds. Reports of CTA for evaluation of extremity vascular injury now exist; however this modality should be viewed as an adjunct, as its full utility has yet to be determined. Furthermore, this modality takes additional time, IV contrast and technical experience in order to provide accurate and meaningful images.

6. Performance Improvement (PI) Monitoring.

- a. Intent (Expected Outcomes).
 - 1) When limb salvage is attempted at Role 2 facilities, arterial injuries are shunted and the patients are expeditiously transferred to Role 3 for definitive repair.
 - 2) When fasciotomy is performed, all compartments are completely released through full skin and fascial incisions
 - 3) When indicated, fasciotomy is performed at the time of re-vascularization of an ischemic extremity
- b. Performance/Adherence Measures.
 - 1) All patients undergoing limb salvage at a Role 2 facility had an arterial shunt placed prior to expeditious transfer to Role 3 for definitive arterial repair
 - 2) When fasciotomy was performed, there was complete release of all compartments through full skin and fascial incisions
 - 3) When indicated in patients with ischemic extremities, fasciotomy was performed at the time of re-vascularization
- c. Data Source.
 - 1) Patient Record
 - 2) Joint Theater Trauma Registry (JTTR)
- d. System Reporting & Frequency.

The above constitutes the minimum criteria for PI monitoring of this CPG. System reporting will be performed annually; additional PI monitoring and system reporting may be performed as needed.

The system review and data analysis will be performed by the Joint Theater Trauma System (JTTS) Director, JTTS Program Manager, and the Joint Trauma System (JTS) Performance Improvement Branch.

7. Responsibilities. It is the trauma team leader's responsibility to ensure familiarity, appropriate compliance and PI monitoring at the local level with this CPG.

8. References.

- White JM, Rasmussen TE, Clouse WD, Burkhardt GE, Stannard A, Eastridge BJ, Blackbourne JH. Vascular injury rates from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. *J Vasc Surg* 2010. In press.
- ² Clouse WD, Rasmussen TE, Peck MA, Eliason JL, Cox MW, Bowser AN, Jenkins DH, Smith DL, Rich NM. Current in theater management of wartime vascular injury: a report from Operation Iraqi Freedom. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2007;204(4):625-632.
- Rasmussen TE, Clouse WD, Jenkins DH, Peck MA, Eliason JL, Smith DL. Echelons of care and the management of wartime vascular injury: A report from the 332nd EMDG/Air Force Theater Hospital Balad Air Base Iraq. *Persp Vasc Endovasc Surg*. 2006;18(2):91-99.
- Fox CJ, Starnes MW. Vascular surgery in the modern battlefield. *Surg Clin N Am.* 2007;87:1193-1211.
- Lavenson GS Jr, Rich NM, Strandness DE Jr. Ultrasonic flow detector value in combat vascular injuries. *Arch Surg.* 1971;103:644-647.
- Clouse WD, Rasmussen TE, Perlstein J, Sutherland MJ, Jazerevic S. Upper extremity vascular injury: a current in theater wartime report from Operation Iraqi Freedom. *Ann Vasc Surg.* 2006;20(4):429-434.
- Woodward EB, Clouse WD, Eliason JE, Peck MA, Bowser AN, Cox MW, Jones WT, Jenkins DH, Smith DL, Rasmussen TE. Penetrating Femoropopliteal injury during modern warfare: experience of the Balad Vascular Registry. *J Vasc Surg.* 2008;47:1259-65.
- 8. Burkhardt GE, Cox M, Clouse WD, Porras C, Gifford SM, Williams K, Walk R, Rasmussen TE. Outcomes of selective tibial artery repair following combat-related extremity injury. *J Vasc Surg.* 2010;52(1):91-96.
- ⁹ Quan RW, Gillespie DL, Stuart BS, Chang AS, Wittaker DR, Fox CJ. The effect of vein repair on the risk of venous thromboembolic events: a review of more than 100 traumatic military venous injuries. *J Vasc Surg.* 2008;47:571-7.
- ^{10.} Feliciano DV. Management of traumatic retroperitoneal hematoma. *Ann Surg.* 1990;211:109-123.
- ^{11.} Rasmussen TE, Clouse WD, Jenkins DH, Peck MA, Eliason JL, Smith DL. The use of temporary vascular shunts as a damage control adjunct in the management of wartime vascular injury. *J Trauma*. 2006;61(1):15-21.
- Gifford SM, Aidinian G, Clouse WD, Fox CJ, Jones WT, Zarzabal L, Michalek JE, Propper BW, Burkhardt GE, Rasmussen TE. Effect of temporary vascular shunting on extremity vascular injury: an outcome analysis from the GWOT vascular initiative. *J Vasc Surg.* 2009;50(3):549-55.
- ^{13.} Peck MA, Clouse WD, Cox MW, Jenkins DH, Smith DL, Rasmussen TE. The complete management of traumatic vascular injury in a local population during Operation Iraqi

- Freedom: A wartime report from the 332nd EMDG / Air Force Theater Hospital Balad, Iraq. *J Vasc Surg.* 2007;45:1147-1205.
- ^{14.} Rasmussen TE, Clouse WD, Peck MA, Bowser AN, Eliason JL, Cox MW, Woodward EB, Jones WT, Jenkins DH. The development and implementation of endovascular capabilities in wartime. *J Trauma*. 2008;64:1169-76.
- Leininger BE, Rasmussen TE, Smith DL, Jenkins DH, Coppola C. Experience with wound VAC and delayed primary closure of contaminated soft tissue injuries in Iraq. *J Trauma*. 2006;61:1207-1211.

Approved by CENTCOM JTTS Director, JTS Director and CENTCOM SG

Opinions, interpretations, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Services or DoD.

APPENDIX A EXTREMITY VASCULAR INJURY

Note: See Algorithm for Extremity Vascular Injury Figure 1, Algorithm for Extremity Vascular Injury

1. Upper Extremity^{2,6}

a. Subclavian artery

Recommendations: Repair
Utility of temporary shunt: Low

Method/ Conduit: Interposition graft /6-8mm ePTFE or Dacron

Pearls

- o Proximal right subclavian is approached through median sternotomy and the proximal left subclavian through a high left anterolateral thoracotomy
- The supraclavicular approach is through the clavicular head of SCM, sternothyroid/hyoid muscles to scalene fat pad with retraction of phrenic and division of the anterior scalene
- o Place gentle role under shoulders and extend head away from side of injury
- Avoid injury to phrenic nerve, internal mammary, thyrocervical and vertebral arteries

The proximal left subclavian artery is approached using a high (3rd intercostal space) anterolateral thoracotomy, and the innominate and proximal right subclavian artery through a median sternotomy and supraclavicular incision. Alternatively, the mid and distal subclavian arteries on both sides can be exposed through combination supra- and infraclavicular incisions. When approaching this injury the operator should err on the side of ample proximal exposure and if necessary, can resect the clavicular head. Because of the technical challenges with exposure, the utility of temporary vascular shunts in this injury pattern is limited. Most often interposition graft using 6-8 mm ePTFE or Dacron is required for subclavian artery repair, being mindful of the vertebral artery and the phrenic nerve.

b. Axillary artery

Recommendations: Repair
Utility of temporary shunt: High

Method/ Conduit: Interposition graft/ reversed saphenous vein

Pearls

- o Supra- and infraclavicular incisions allows proximal control and distal exposure
- o Prep axilla, arm and hand of upper extremity into operative field
- o Avoid brachial plexus which will be deep or lateral to axillary artery

Control of the proximal axillary artery is best accomplished through a supraclavicular incision, although the artery itself is exposed through an infraclavicular incision extending into the axilla. The infraclavicular exposure includes division of the clavipectoral fascia, and the pectoralis major muscle. The proximal axillary artery is then visible coursing under the pectoralis minor muscle which can be retracted laterally or divided. It is important when exposing the artery to have the arm and hand prepped in the operative field and extended out onto an arm board. Repair of the axillary artery most commonly involves an interposition graft using reversed saphenous vein.

c. Brachial artery

Recommendations: Repair Utility of temporary shunt: High

Method/ Conduit: Interposition graft/ reversed saphenous vein

Pearls

- o Medial approach; adjacent to the median nerve in brachial sheath in bicep/triceps groove
- Elastic artery with redundancy; flex arm slightly for interposition grafts to avoid kinking
- Depending upon damage to collaterals, distal ligation (below profunda) may be tolerated

The brachial artery with the median nerve rests in the brachial sheath and is exposed through a medial incision in the upper arm in the groove between the bicep and triceps. Repair is most commonly accomplished using a reversed saphenous vein interposition graft. Although it may be possible to ligate the brachial artery below the origin of the deep (profunda) brachial artery and maintain a viable arm and hand, this proposition is based on intact collateral circulation. Unfortunately collaterals from the shoulder and deep brachial artery are often damaged in the setting of penetrating blast wounds and therefore maintenance of flow through the brachial artery with a temporary shunt or vascular repair is advised. Ligation or primary amputation is an acceptable damage control maneuver if there is not time for shunting or the patient is in extremis.

d. Radial/ulnar arteries

Recommendations: Selective (repair some but not all)

Utility of temporary shunt: Low

Method/ Conduit: Ligation or interposition graft/ reversed

saphenous vein

Pearls

• The presence of an arterial Doppler signal in the hand obviates the need for artery repair

 Repair with saphenous vein in instances where the absence of an arterial signal persists

Most often the hand has a dual arterial supply and therefore can tolerate ligation of either the radial or ulnar artery. As such, repair or reconstruction of an injury at this level is rare. Perfusion to the hand should be assessed with Doppler before and after occlusion or ligation, and if the absence of a signal persists, reconstruction with reversed saphenous vein should be performed. Given the relative small muscle mass of the hand and the degree of collateral circulation, ligation is most often tolerated understanding that if ischemia persists, evaluation and revascularization can be performed at a level V facility in CONUS days or weeks later.

2. Lower extremity^{2,7}

a. Common femoral artery⁷

Recommendations: Repair

Utility of temporary shunt: High

Method/ Conduit: Interposition graft/ saphenous vein or 6-8mm prosthetic

Pearls

- Expose abdominal wall and artery coursing under inguinal ligament for proximal control
- External iliac artery can be controlled through proximal groin or low abdominal incision
- Coverage with tissue (femoral sheath), sartorius muscle or rectus flap (Level IV or V)

Injury to the common femoral artery is often fatal as hemorrhage control in the field is difficult. Exposure is obtained through a single longitudinal incision above the artery (2-3 cm lateral to the pubic tubercle) exposing the artery at the inguinal ligament. A key point in exposing the femoral artery is placing the incision proximal enough so that the abdominal wall and inguinal ligament can be identified first in a consistent and familiar location. Alternatively, proximal control can be obtained in the retroperitoneum (i.e. external iliac) through the proximal extension of this groin incision or by using a transverse incision in the lower abdomen. Common femoral artery injuries are most commonly reconstructed using reversed saphenous vein, although e-PTFE or Dacron can be used if there is too great of a size mismatch. Every attempt should be made to maintain flow into the profunda femorus artery, although the feasibility of this will depend upon the pattern of injury and the comfort level the surgeon to perform a more complicated reconstruction. Coverage of vascular reconstructions in the groin is challenging and the focus of level III-V care and may consist of local viable tissue, the sartorius muscle or other options such as a rectus abdominus transfer flap.

b. Profunda femorus artery⁷

Recommendations:	Selective repair (i.e. some but not all)
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Ligation or interposition graft/ saphenous vein

Pearls

- Exposure of proximal profunda is the same (distal extension) of the common femoral
- o If superficial femoral artery is injured, repair of profunda is necessary to heal amputations
- o If superficial femoral is patent, ligation of mid to distal profunda injury is acceptable

Exposure of the proximal profunda femoral artery is obtained through a longitudinal incision used to expose the common femoral artery. Mid- and distal segments are exposed through a more lateral incision on the upper thigh, lateral to the proximal sartorius muscle. Proximal profunda injuries should be repaired with reversed saphenous vein interposition graft especially if there is question about the integrity of the superficial femoral or popliteal vessels. In this setting flow through the profunda is most important to allow healing of subsequent lower extremity amputations. If patency of the superficial femoral artery can be confirmed, ligation of mid and distal profunda femorus injuries is acceptable as they lie deep in the thigh musculature and are not required for leg viability.

c. Superficial femoral artery⁷

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	High
Method/ Conduit:	Interposition graft/ reversed saphenous vein

Pearls:

- o Medial incision with "bump" under calf, surgeon seated, OR lights over shoulder
- o Exposure of the proximal 1/3 posterior to the sartorius and distal 1/3 anterior to the sartorius
- o Be wary of adjacent vein and geniculate branches of distal superficial femoral artery (Hunter's canal)

Exposure is performed through a medial thigh incision and the adductors of the leg (i.e. adductor magnus). Exposure is facilitated by placing a lift or "bump" below the knee which allows the femoral artery, sartorius and adductors to be suspended improving separation. Entry into the fascia of the lower thigh (distal superficial femoral artery) should be performed at the upper anterior margin of the sartorius which should be reflected down or posteriorly. Exposure is facilitated with the surgeon seated looking across to the dissection field with lights positioned directly over his or her shoulder. When exposing the superficial femoral artery it is important to recognize the vein which

is in close proximity, if not adherent. At the distal extent of the artery as it exits the adductor magnus (i.e. Hunter's canal), there are large geniculate side branches which should be preserved or at least not injured causing hemorrhage. Repair of superficial femoral artery injury is best performed by reversed saphenous vein interposition graft from the uninjured leg.

d. Popliteal artery⁷

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	High
Method/ Conduit:	Reversed saphenous vein

Pearls

- Medial incision with "bump" under calf for above knee and under thigh for below knee
- o Henley popliteal retractor with removable, varied depth side blades is valuable
- Distal exposure by division of gastrocnemius and soleus from tibia allowing dissection to anterior tibial origin (coursing away from dissection plane) and tibial-peroneal trunk

Vascular injuries in the popliteal space are exposed through a medial incision with the surgeon seated and lights over his or her shoulder. The dissection is extended from above to below the knee and is facilitated by a lift or "bump" under the calf of the leg with the knee flexed. When exposing below the knee, this bump is placed under the thigh. Natural dissection planes exist in exposing the above knee popliteal artery (i.e. popliteal space) with the exception of the need to divide the fibers of the adductor magnus which envelop the distal superficial femoral artery (Hunter's canal). Similarly, a natural dissection plane exists into the popliteal space from below the knee, but added exposure should be accomplished by division of the gastrocnemius and soleus muscle fibers from the medial tibial condyle to allow a lengthy exposure of the below knee popliteal artery to the takeoff of the anterior tibial artery and the tibial-peroneal trunk. To completely expose the popliteal space, the medial attachments of the sartorius, semitendinosis, semimembrinosis and gracilis to the medial condyle of the tibia can be divided. Weitlaner, flexible Adson-Beckman or Henly popliteal retractors with detachable side blades are necessary to expose the popliteal space. Typically the medial head of the gastrocnemius can be retracted down using one of these devices and does not need to be divided.

e. Tibial arteries⁸

Recommendations:	Selective repair (i.e., some but not all)
Utility of temporary shunt:	Moderate
Method/ Conduit:	Ligation or interposition graft with saphenous vein

Pearls

- o If a Doppler signal is present at the ankle, there is no need for additional tests or repair
- o Doppler exam should be repeated as patient is resuscitated and warmed
- o Repair with vein if three tibial arteries injured and an absence of a Doppler signal persists

The recommended approach to tibial artery injury is one of selective repair (i.e. repair some but not all). Because of their distal location and redundant nature, isolated and sometimes multiple tibial artery injuries are able to be ligated without adverse outcomes. As long as one tibial artery is uninjured and patent to the ankle (i.e. an arterial signal at the ankle or foot), no additional tests or repair is required (especially at levels I-III of care). Continuous wave Doppler exam of the foot is critical in the setting of tibial artery injuries and concern for viability of the foot (i.e. patency of the remaining tibial vessel(s)). Doppler should be repeated over the first hours after injury, especially if the patient presents in shock or cold. Because of the capacity for vasoconstriction, what may initially appear as an ischemic foot from tibial vascular injury may improve with warming and resuscitation (i.e. return of arterial signal). If a signal does not return and there is concern for, or observation of, multiple tibial artery injuries, flow to the foot should be restored using a temporary shunt or interposition graft using saphenous vein. This selective approach to tibial repair has been shown to be effective, confirming, that although tibial injuries can be ligated, there is a distinct injury pattern which requires repair. Temporary shunts may be placed in tibial vessels although success (patency) is lower than that in larger, more proximal vessels. Exposure of the posterior tibial artery in the deep compartment of the leg is through a medial incision with a lift or "bump" under the knee or thigh. Importantly, tibial reconstruction is technically more challenging because of the smaller size of the vessels and may therefore take longer to complete. And like other repairs should not be undertaken if the patient has other life threatening injuries or is in extremis.

f. Extremity venous injury⁹

Recommendations:	Selective repair (i.e. some but not all)
Utility of temporary shunt:	Moderate
Method/ Conduit:	Ligation, repair or saphenous interposition graft

Pearls

- Repair of proximal veins is indicated to reduce venous hypertension and congestion
- o Shunts in proximal veins will remain patent until formal repair can be performed
- Pneumatic compression device on distal extremity to augment venous flow after repair

Many extremity venous injuries, especially small, distal veins, can be ligated with no adverse effects because of collateral venous drainage. However, ligation of more proximal or watershed veins, or even axial veins when collaterals have been destroyed by soft tissue wounds, will result in venous hypertension and congestion. In such instances an attempt should be made to repair the vein and restore venous outflow. Temporary shunts have been shown to be effective in restoring venous outflow in the femoral veins until formal repair can be accomplished. Techniques of lateral venorrhaphy are acceptable, although an interposition graft using saphenous vein from the uninjured limb is often necessary.

The patency of vein repairs in the lower extremity is 80% at 24 months with no increased incidence of pulmonary emboli compared to ligation. Additionally, a limb salvage benefit of vein repair compared to ligation has been shown 2 years after injury. ^{9,12} Despite these advantages, repair of extremity venous injury should only be considered in instances when the patient's overall status is able to tolerate additional operating; otherwise venous ligation is preferred, accepting the increase in morbidity.

Technical considerations include removing thrombus from the distal venous segments with compression (e.g. ace wrap or Esmark bandage) prior to repair. Additionally, following venous repair, placement of a pneumatic compression device distal on the extremity will augment venous flow and improve patency. Lastly, if there is no contraindication, a prophylactic dose of low-molecular weight heparin should be initiated.

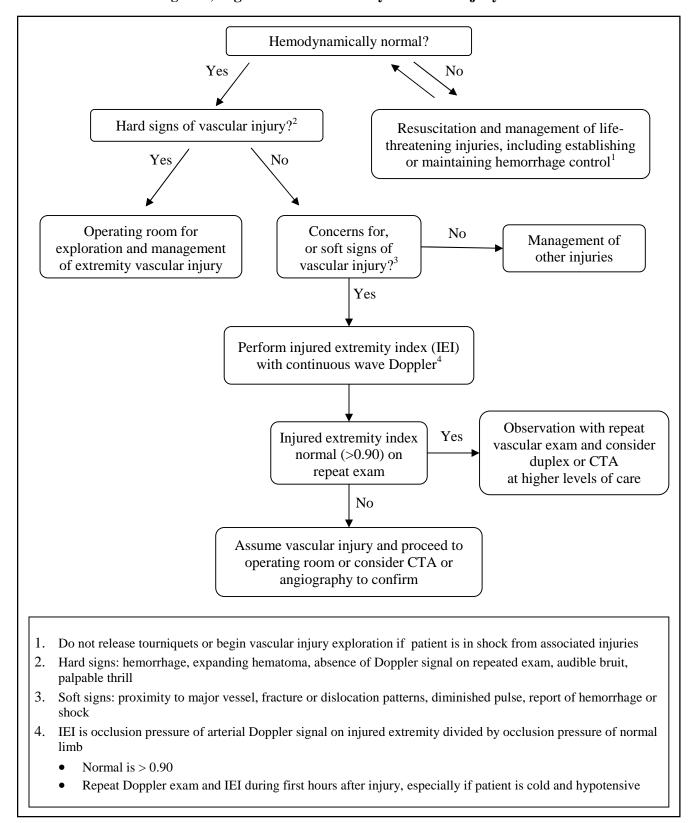


Figure 1, Algorithm for Extremity Vascular Injury

Guideline Only/Not a Substitute for Clinical Judgment June 2012

APPENDIX B TORSO VASCULAR INJURY¹⁰

1. Thoracic aorta

Recommendations:	Selective repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Observation and medical optimization or Dacron graft replacement

Pearls

- o If a stable blunt injury, MEDEVAC to level III for possible repair versus AIREVAC to level IV
- o Permissive hypotension or B-blocker may decrease risk of rupture
- If hemorrhage from penetrating wounds, entry through left 3rd or 4th interspace, one lung ventilation and rib removal to facilitate exposure of the proximal descending aorta

Management of penetrating injury to the thoracic aorta is very rare given the pre-hospital lethality of this injury. If present, management of thoracic hemorrhage in the setting of penetrating trauma is directed by chest tube location and output (i.e. the hemithorax which is bleeding from tube thoracostomy is the one which is opened). The thoracic aorta is approached through the left chest and when injured is surrounded by hematoma. An initial left thoracotomy can be extended into the right chest to approach the thoracic aorta by extending across the sternum ("clam shell" thoracotomy). Aortic control proximal and distal to the hematoma must be obtained including isolation or control of any intercostal arteries in this segment. Aortic clamps are used to arrest flow in this segment and the hematoma entered with debridement of the injured aorta using scissors. An adequate length of aorta must be debrided to allow placement of large caliber (20-26mm) Dacron graft sewn end-to-end to the proximal and distal segments.

Management of blunt injury to the thoracic aorta (partial transection or pseudoaneurysm) which has reached a temporary stable equilibrium is more common. In this setting and in the absence of hemorrhage from chest tubes, contrast CT imaging is indicated to characterize the injury. Permissive hypotension and selective use of B-blockers is indicated to decrease the risk of aortic rupture during this period. If CT confirms blunt aortic injury, options include early open repair or MEDEVAC. In a patient with normal and stable vital signs and no signs of active hemorrhage from the thorax, MEDEVAC to the level III air hub should occur. At this location the decision will be made regarding options for open or endovascular repair or medical optimization and CCATT transport out of theater. Recent advances in in-theater endovascular capability have made endovascular repair of such injuries possible at certain level III facilities.

2. Abdominal aorta

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Interposition graft / Dacron

Pearls

- o Supraceliac aortic control requires high midline incision along xyphoid, spreading and suspension of rib cage with retractors and nasogastric tube in the esophagus
- Approach supra-mesocolic Zone I hematomas with left medial visceral rotation (Mattox maneuver)
- o Approach infra-mesocolic Zone I hematomas with right medial visceral rotation (Catell-Brash maneuver)
- Keep in mind that supra-mesocolic Zone I hematomas may contain transected pancreas

Blunt and penetrating injuries to the abdominal aorta present as a central (zone I) hematoma with blood in the abdomen at laparotomy. Zone I hematomas should be considered in two locations, supra- or infra-mesocolic, and should be entered once proximal and distal control is established and blood and access are available for transfusion. Supra-mesocolic, Zone I hematomas are best approached by left medial visceral rotation (i.e. Mattox maneuver) which exposes the supraceliac, paravisceral and infrarenal segments of aorta. Infra-mesocolic Zone I hematomas should be approached with the Catell-Brash maneuver exposing the infrarenal aorta and inferior vena cava up to and behind the liver. Proximal aortic control is obtained through the gastrohepatic ligament by retracting the esophagus to the left and dividing the crus. Alternatively the Mattox maneuver exposes the supraceliac aorta from the lateral position, enabling proximal control as well. The iliac vessels or distal aorta can next be controlled, providing isolation before entering the hematoma. Repair techniques for the aorta and its branch vessels range from primary pledgetted closure to replacement with a Dacron interposition graft and depend upon the degree of injury.

3. Vena cava

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Lateral repair, patch angioplasty or interposition graft / ePTFE

Pearls

- o Establish resuscitation lines above the diaphragm for abdominal vena cava injuries
- o Vena cava injuries should be exposed using the Catell-Brash and Kocher maneuvers
- o Lateral repair is acceptable provided that no more than 1/3rd of the lumen is compromised

- o If occlusion of the cava results in hypotension, clamp the aorta to support central perfusion
- o Retrohepatic, retroperitoneal hematomas should not be disturbed if not actively bleeding
- o Several specific strategies applicable to repair of the injured vena cava are listed in the Large Vein Injuries section (section VII).

The approach to the vena cava in the abdomen should be performed using the Catell-Brash and Kocher maneuvers exposing the cava, renal veins and the beginning portion of retrohepatic segment. Mobilization of the liver is required to expose the retro-hepatic vena cava, however retrohepatic hematomas should not be disturbed if there is no active bleeding. Attempts should be made to identify large lumbar veins feeding into the injured segment which may bleed as much as the main channel of the vena cava if not controlled.

Because repair of the vena cava is likely to require intermittent occlusion (i.e. sponge sticks or vascular clamps) or ligation in extreme cases, central venous access should be established above the diaphragm (i.e. subclavian or jugular veins) to allow effective volume resuscitation. If compressing or occluding the vena cava results in significant hypotension, the adjacent abdominal aorta may be temporarily occluded to support central pressures while resuscitation takes place. Repair of tangential injuries to the cava can be accomplished using lateral suture repair (i.e. running venorrhaphy) provided that the lumen is not narrowed more than ½ of its native diameter. If lateral repair results in significant narrowing, there is a higher risk of thrombosis leading to pulmonary emboli and anticoagulation should be initiated postoperatively if possible. In instances where lateral repair will result in more than 50% narrowing, patch angioplasty or resection and interposition graft using ePTFE is preferable. Ligation of the cava is acceptable as a damage control maneuver, although this carries morbidity in the form of decreased cardiac preload and significant lower extremity edema.

4. Portal vein and hepatic artery

Pearls

- Access to gastrohepatic ligament by Pringle maneuver should precede exploration of the porta hepatis
- o Ligation of hepatic artery injuries is acceptable if the portal vein is patent
- o Lateral venorrhaphy is preferred; ligation of portal vein results in massive bowel edema and systemic hypovolemia
- o Several specific strategies applicable to repair of the injured portal vein are listed in the Large Vein Injuries section (section VII).

Portal vein and hepatic artery injuries typically present as hematomas of the porta hepatis and should be explored after isolation of the gastrohepatic ligament and application of a Pringle maneuver. Next, careful dissection of the porta is performed to determine which structures have been injured. Injuries to the hepatic artery may be repaired with lateral suture placement if limited in severity; ligation of the hepatic artery is acceptable if the portal vein is uninjured. Repair of the portal vein should be attempted using the technique of lateral

venorrhaphy if possible. If a large segment of the portal vein is damaged, vein patch angioplasty, or in rare instances, interposition vein graft may be performed. Ligation of the portal vein is an option of last resort and will result in hepatic ischemia and splanchnic congestion and hypervolemia for several days. Importantly, imaging of the biliary system should be considered for associated injuries of the common bile duct and can be performed with cholangiography through the gall bladder.

5. Mesenteric arteries

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Primary repair, patch angioplasty, interposition graft / ePTFE or Dacron or saphenous vein

Pearls

- o Present as supra-mesocolic Zone I hematoma
- o Repair proximal mesenteric artery and vein injuries including portal vein
- o Ligation can be performed for distal artery and vein injuries or as damage control

Upon entering a supra-mesocolic Zone I hematoma, one may find injury to the mesenteric vessels (artery or vein). Under most circumstances, repair of the proximal superior mesenteric artery and vein, including the portal vein, is indicated using the techniques of primary pledgetted repair, vein patch angioplasty or replacement of the injured segment with interposition saphenous vein graft. The specific type of repair will depend on the location and extent of vessel injury. In cases where injury to the artery or vein is distal (i.e. beyond the middle colic artery or jejunal vein branches) or in which the patient's physiology is severely compromised, the vessels can be ligated.

6. Renal arteries

Recommendations:	Selective repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	Low
Method/ Conduit:	Primary repair or patch angioplasty/Dacron or vein

Pearls

- o Explore Zone II hematomas from penetrating injury
- Establish status of contralateral kidney by contrast study or manual palpation
- o Priority is "save-life," and early nephrectomy is required with complex injuries
- o With a renal warm ischemic time > 30-60 minutes, complex repairs are not indicated

Injury to the renal pedicle (blunt or penetrating) is closely associated with injury to the parenchyma; isolated arterial injury is rare. Essential considerations in the management of renal artery injury in wartime are the warm ischemic time of 30-60 minutes and complexity

of renal artery repair. Both of these limit what the surgeon can accomplish in the context of renal artery injury other than ligation and nephrectomy.

If arterial injury manifests as occlusion and renal ischemia, it will be too late to restore flow and function to the kidney by the time the diagnosis is made in the operating room or CT-scanner. If the artery is patent and bleeding, an associated Zone II or lateral hematoma requiring exploration will be present and attempts to stop hemorrhage and repair are indicated. These maneuvers may include pledgetted primary repair of the renal artery, patch angioplasty or very rarely interposition graft replacement (aorto-renal bypass). Again, considering the warm ischemic time of the kidney, complex operations to maintain or reestablish perfusion in the renal artery are not recommended and should be abandoned in favor of nephrectomy in most cases.

The method by which to approach an expanding or penetrating zone II hematoma is controversial and case specific. Isolation of the renal pedicle before exploring the hematoma is doctrine in many institutions and has the advantage of aortic isolation and definitive proximal control. However from a practical standpoint, mobilization of the damaged kidney from a lateral to medial direction without hilar control may be faster depending upon the appearance of the injury. The lateral to medial approach is similar to the medial visceral rotation performed for zone I injuries.

7. Iliac arteries

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	High
Method/ Conduit:	Interposition graft/ ePTFE or Dacron or saphenous

Pearls

- o Explore Zone III hematoma from penetrating wound after establishing aortic control above the hematoma
- o Distal control is obtained at the inguinal ligament (i.e. external iliac arteries)
- o Wylie hypogastric (internal iliac) clamps facilitate low-profile control of iliac arteries

Iliac artery injuries generally present as a Zone III or pelvic hematoma with or without extremity ischemia (check femoral pulses). Exploration of the hematoma should be performed after proximal control is obtained at the infrarenal aorta and the contralateral iliac artery if possible. The distal external iliac artery should be found as it exits the pelvis at the inguinal ligament at a point where it is free from the hematoma. The internal iliac artery may not be initially controlled or visualized before exploring the hematoma, which often requires opening to expose the internal iliac. The inability to initially control all bleeding from the hematoma necessitates preparation including multiple suction devices, direct tampanade strategies or devices and alerting anesthesia regarding the need for continued resuscitation during exploration. After proximal and distal control of the common and external iliac arteries is obtained, the hematoma is entered which facilitates exposure and clamping of the internal iliac artery and the injured vessel(s). Common and external artery injuries can be controlled and managed with a temporary vascular shunt if needed or repaired with

interposition grafting using saphenous vein or prosthetic conduit (6-8mm ePTFE or Dacron). If the primary injury is to the internal iliac artery (hypogastric), it may be ligated with 3.0 or 4.0 Prolene on an SH needle. Bleeding from associated iliac veins may be severe and difficult to expose. The iliac artery may be divided if necessary to facilitate exposure of the iliac vein, followed by repair of the artery. The principles which apply to the management of iliac vein injury are discussed in the Management of large vein injuries section.

APPENDIX C CERVICAL VASCULAR INJURY

1. Carotid artery

Recommendations:	Repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	High
Method/ Conduit:	Vein patch or vein interposition graft

Pearls

- o Zone I cervical injuries best approached with median sternotomy for ample proximal exposure
- o Early control of common carotid with umbilical tape/Rummel or DeBakey clamp
- o 3 Fr Fogarty with 3-way stopcock is useful to occlude internal carotid back bleeding
- o Shunt and augment mean arterial pressure during carotid repair to perfuse brain

Most carotid injuries result from penetrating wounds and result in hematoma. Indications for operation are bleeding or injury with interrupted flow (i.e. occlusion). When feasible, contrast CT should be performed for neck wounds. CT aids in the triage for urgent operation, improves operative planning and images the brain as a baseline. Although a selective approach to exploration of zone II neck wounds is acceptable, if a carotid injury is identified, the neck should be explored and an attempt made to repair. The exceptions are blunt injury resulting in carotid occlusion greater than 12 hours or a zone III injury not accessible by standard techniques.

Exposure of the carotid artery is through a generous incision coursing anterior to the sternocleidomastoid and facilitated by a role under the shoulders, extension of the neck and turning of the head away from the injury. The carotid is exposed proximal to the hematoma and controlled with an umbilical tape into a Rummel device (i.e. red rubber catheter). In the absence of uncontrolled bleeding, there is no need to synch the Rummel; but having it in place gives one this option and allows for securing the proximal end of a temporary shunt. The dissection proceeds distal into the zone of injury. If bleeding is encountered the Rummel may be synched or a clamp (angled DeBakey) slid proximal to the umbilical tape using it to pull the carotid up into the clamp. Back bleeding from the internal carotid artery is a favorable sign and can be controlled with a small clamp or a (3 Fr) Fogarty inserted into the internal and inflated using a 1cc syringe and 3-way stop-cock to maintain inflation. The external carotid artery is controlled with vessel loops or ligated.

If the internal and common carotid artery are identified above and below the injury, a temporary shunt can be placed to maintain perfusion while the injury is identified and options considered. First, the shunt should be placed into the internal carotid artery and secured with a vessel loop or small Javid shunt clamp allowing back bleeding through the shunt. To secure the proximal shunt, an angled DeBakey is placed proximal to the umbilical tape and Rummel device. Then in sequence, the shunt is placed in the common carotid under the Rummel which is partially synched around the shunt. As it is advanced deeper (more proximal) into the common carotid, the DeBakey clamp is slowly opened allowing the shunt to pass while the Rummel is synched down fully securing the shunt in place. Alternatively the common

carotid artery can be controlled with fingers as the shunt is inserted proximal and the Rummel synched down. If available, Javid shunt clamps can be used to occlude the artery around the shunt instead of the Rummel device.

Repair of carotid artery injuries most commonly requires placement of an interposition saphenous vein graft, although primary repair or vein patch angioplasty can be performed for less severe injuries. To perform the interposition graft over the shunt, the proximal end is removed using the DeBakey clamp to again occlude the common carotid proximal to the Rummel. The vein graft is next placed over the shunt (i.e. shunt in the vein graft lumen). The proximal shunt is reinserted into the common carotid and secured with the Rummel using previously described sequence. After flow is restored in the shunt, the distal vein graft anastamosis is performed using 6-0 Prolene to the edge of the normal internal carotid. Next the proximal anastamosis to the common is started also with 6-0 Prolene. After half of this anastamosis is completed, the shunt is removed through the remaining anastamotic opening, first removing the proximal from the common carotid and observing back bleeding from the shunt in the internal carotid. Finally the shunt is removed from the internal and the vein graft flushed generously with heparinized saline and the anastamosis completed.

Alternatively the reconstruction can be performed without a shunt, however this exposes the ipsilateral hemisphere to prolonged ischemia. Regardless of whether or not a shunt is used, the mean arterial pressure should be kept above 90mmHg during the repair to optimize cerebral perfusion. If no other life threatening injuries are present, a small amount (50u/kg) of systemic heparin is recommended along with generous flushing of the repair with heparinized saline to prevent platelet aggregation and clot formation. Ligation of the internal carotid artery is an acceptable damage control maneuver to stop hemorrhage but has an acute stroke rate of 30-50%.

2. Vertebral artery

Recommendations:	Ligate
Utility of temporary shunt:	None
Method/ Conduit:	N/A

Pearls

- o Bleeding vertebral artery injuries are ligated with no role for reconstruction in theater
- Vertebral artery occlusions are managed with anticoagulation if it is not contraindicated
- Endovascular embolization is an option if injury is not accessible by standard exposure

Repair of vertebral artery injuries in wartime is extremely rare and most commonly bleeding from this vessel is ligated as a matter of necessity during neck exploration. Alternatively, vertebral artery injury (occlusion or extravasation) can be discovered on a contrast CT scan. In instances of acute vertebral artery occlusion, anticoagulation is recommended to reduce the risk of posterior circulation stroke although the clinical evidence to support this is limited. If associated injuries preclude use of systemic heparin, then antiplatelet therapy should be initiated.

3. Jugular vein

Recommendations:	Selective repair
Utility of temporary shunt:	None
Method/ Conduit:	Lateral venorrhaphy, vein patch or saphenous vein

Pearls

- o Significant jugular vein injuries can be ligated without adverse effects
- Repair of jugular injuries should be considered in the setting of TBI with elevated ICP

Repair instead of ligation of jugular vein injuries may be indicated in instances of associate closed head injury to reduce intracranial pressures, although little data exists to support this practice. Minor jugular vein injuries can be repaired by lateral suture repair (venorrhaphy) while patch angioplasty or interposition vein graft are options for more extensive injuries. Operative exposure of the jugular vein is the same as that described for the carotid artery.

APPENDIX D MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

1. Large vein injuries

Pearls

- Formal control (DeBakey clamps) is acceptable but may be difficult or not advisable as it risks causing injury or may not be needed if injury is limited to the side wall of the vein
- o Initial control can be accomplished by one or more fingers on the bleeding segment
- Organize the operating room and confirm availability of blood and central venous access
- o Venous access above the heart if operating on injury to the inferior vena cava
- o Optimal lighting, exposure (i.e. extend incisions) and two or more suction devices
- O Avoid too small of a needle and suture which are difficult to maneuver in blood. 4-0 Prolene on an SH tapered needle is substantive suture on a needle large enough to see
- o Fingers replaced with a low profile tampanode device such as a small sponge stick or Wecksorb "K" dissector (i.e. Kitner device) as bleeding is evacuated
- Passes of suture are made capturing muscle or soft tissue if possible (i.e. pledget-effect). Tie the knot to begin running venorrhaphy or place second pass in "figure-of-8" fashion
- o Felt pledgets can be used, but may not be available
- Hemorrhage control with ligation is preferable to patency with death from exsanguination

2. Ligation of vessels

Pearls

- Acceptable damage control maneuver especially for small, more distal arteries and veins
- Temporary vascular shunting to restore perfusion should be considered before ligation
- Continuous wave Doppler should be checked before ligation to judge perfusion/viability

Ligation of vascular injuries was the mainstay of treatment for centuries and should not be overlooked as a damage control option; especially at level II facilities where operations are best abbreviated (≤ 1 hr). This technique is especially useful in small distal vessels (tibial, forearm and arm below the take-off of the profunda brachial artery) when patients are in extremis. Use of temporary vascular shunts or even repair should be considered before ligation, however, if not available or feasible ligation should be completed. Continuous wave Doppler may also be useful in assessing perfusion to the extremity distal to the vessel in question.

3. Fogarty thrombectomy catheters

Pearls

- o Sized at 2-7 Fr; maximum balloon diameter of the 2 and 3 Fr catheters is 4 and 5 mm
- o Inflate with saline using 1cc tuberculin syringe (0.2-0.75cc) while withdrawing from vessel
- o Goal is clot, not intima, removal so don't over-inflate or "drag" too much
- o May be used to control bleeding with use of a 3-way stop cock to maintain inflation

Fogarty catheters are a key tool in the armamentarium of vascular injury management. Used primarily to remove thrombus, they can also be used to arrest bleeding from within the lumen of the vessel. The most common size used in extremity vascular injury is 2 and 3 Fr although the maximum inflated diameter of the 4 Fr Fogarty catheter is 9 mm which can be used for balloon occlusion of the femoral and iliac vessels. At least one pass of a Fogarty should precede extremity vascular injury repair to assure removal of the traumatic thrombus burden before restoring inflow and outflow. The key tenant is not to cause native vessel damage. To lessen the risk of damage, avoid advancing the catheter too distal in the smaller vessels of the leg and arm and avoid over aggressive, static balloon inflation (i.e. angioplasty or "intimectomy"). Using a Fogarty balloon to control bleeding from within the vessel lumen requires a 3-way stop cock to maintain inflation once the bleeding stopped.

4. Temporary vascular shunts^{2,11,12}

Pearls

- o Inline shunts rest in the vessel ("in-situ") while long external shunts are designed to loop
- o In-line Argyl shunts come in cylinder container with 8, 10, 12 and 14 Fr sizes
- o In-line Javid shunts are longer and individually packaged
- o Sundt shunts are designed with short (15cm; inline) and long (30cm; external) profiles
- Equal success has been had with Argyl, Javid and Sundt without systemic anticoagulation
- o Secured with silk ligatures, patent for up to 6 hours; reports of longer duration exist
- o Shunts should be removed with formal repair in-theater prior to AIREVAC to level IV

Temporary vascular shunts are effective and should be considered in the management of nearly all extremity vascular injury patterns including proximal venous injuries. Their main advantage is provision of early restoration of flow and mitigation of the damaging effects of arterial ischemia and venous hypertension. And as an abbreviated procedure compared to formal vascular repair, shunting extends the window of opportunity for limb salvage in some patterns of vascular injury. Although the patency at 3-4 hours is higher in larger, more proximal vessels (axillary/brachial and femoral/popliteal), shunts have been used effectively

in smaller (distal brachial/forearm and tibial) vessels. Outcomes of extremity vascular injury managed with temporary shunts have been recorded demonstrating no adverse effect of this technique and a limb salvage advantage in the most severely injured limbs (MESS \geq 8).

5. Pediatric vascular injuries¹³

Pearls

- o Intervention should be avoided in those less than 10 years old given propensity for spasm
- o Ligation is more well tolerated in infants and toddlers given ability to recruit collaterals
- o Perform interrupted suture lines (6-0 Prolene) to allow expansion with growth of child

Although rare, deployed surgeons can expect to see young patients with vascular injury. Intervention of any type, including angiography, should be avoided in those less than 5 years even if an extremity appears ischemic (i.e. without Doppler signal). The small size of arteries in children and their propensity for vasospasm makes it more likely that an intervention will do harm or confuse the clinical scenario rather than improve the situation. Because of the ability of children to tolerate relative limb ischemia and to develop collateral circulation, ligation of bleeding vessels alone is recommended with warming of the extremity and resuscitation. In rare cases, in children older than 8, reconstruction of larger proximal arteries can be accomplished using reversed saphenous vein. In such instances, the anastamosis should be performed using interrupted suture allowing expansion as the child grows.

6. Endovascular capability and inferior vena cava filters (See Trauma-Specific Endovascular Inventory Tables)¹⁴

Pearls

- o Techniques should be used in a small subset of injuries and directed by a trauma surgeon
- o Endovascular procedures should be focused at one level III facility per theater of war
- Indications for vena cava filter include inability to initiate chemoprophylaxis within 48 hours of injury and the occurrence of pulmonary embolus while on chemoprophylaxis

The emergence of catheter based, endovascular technology to manage injury in the civilian setting has been expanded to the wartime setting. Although advantageous in a small set of combat injuries, endovascular capability in austere settings is in its early stages and its application should be directed by trauma surgeons. Injury patterns and procedures which lend themselves to endovascular techniques include central injuries of the thoracic aorta and brachiocephalic vessels (subclavian and carotid) and select patterns of solid organ and pelvic injury amenable to coil embolization. Placement of vena cava filters to reduce the risk of pulmonary thormboembulus is indicated in patients who cannot receive chemoprophylaxis or therapy with heparin. Because of the expense (i.e. inventory and imaging), required technical expertise and difficulties associated with sustaining both of these, endovascular inventories

and procedures should be confined to one level III facility per theater of war. A trauma-specific endovascular inventory for in-theater capability is listed in <u>Trauma-Specific</u> Endovascular Inventory Tables.

Indications for placement of an inferior vena cava filter include an inability to initiate chemoprophylaxis with low molecular weight heparin within 48 hours of a significant injury and the occurrence of a pulmonary embolus while on chemoprophylaxis. Examples of contraindications to chemoprophylaxis include significant traumatic brain, solid organ or pelvic injuries with bleeding. Other relative indications for vena cava filters exist and because these may be controversial and case-specific, their placement should be directed by the chief of trauma at a level III, IV or V facility. The Günther-TulipTM (Cook Medical, Inc) filter is currently recommended because of its established record of success and it ability to be removed in certain circumstances (see <u>Trauma-Specific Endovascular Inventory Tables</u>).

7. Use of prosthetic graft material²

Pearls

- o ePTFE (Gortex) or Dacron used for central torso vascular injuries (aorta, great vessels)
- Prosthetic conduit acceptable as last resort in extremities when vein cannot be harvested
- o If prosthetic used in extremity injury, notify higher levels of care to facilitate surveillance

Prosthetic graft materials such as ePTFE (Gortex) or Dacron should be reserved for open reconstruction of the aorta and large torso vessels and used very rarely as conduit for extremity vascular injury. Wartime experience has demonstrated poor incorporation of prosthetic grafts in extremity wounds and a propensity for infection compared to saphenous vein. Additionally, extrapolation of civilian data suggests improved patency of vascular reconstructions using saphenous vein. In the rare instance (i.e. damage control) when prosthetic conduit is used for extremity vascular injury, communication with higher levels of care should occur so that appropriate surveillance or even removal of the graft and replacement with vein can occur.

8. Harvesting and use of autologous vein

Pearls

- o Use reversed greater saphenous vein from uninjured extremity
- Expose at saphenofemoral junction or anterior to medial maleolus (consistent locations)
- o Be sure to mark anatomically distal end as "in-flow" assuring reversal of vein conduit
- o Introduce 18 ga. plastic vein or metallic olive tip cannula to distend with heparin saline

Because of its versatility, resistance to infection, propensity for tissue incorporation and favorable patency rates, saphenous vein for interposition graft or patch material is favored in

the management of vascular injuries. Exposure of the vein is best performed where it is most consistently located; at the saphenofemoral junction (2cm medial to the pubic tubercle) or 1-2 cm anterior to the medial malleolus. Identifying the actual saphenofemoral junction is important to confirm that the vein being exposed is truly the main channel saphenous and not an accessory branch or anterior saphenous (i.e. must follow back to main saphenofemoral junction). Nearly always in the setting of trauma the vein appears in-situ as "too small" or "not adequate" due to vasoconstriction or spasm. However after confirming that the vein being exposed is the main channel saphenous, the specimen should be removed and dilated on the back table with firm infusion of heparin saline using an 14-18 gauge plastic vein cannula or the metallic olive tip cannula. Persistence and this maneuver almost always results in a markedly improved and dilated vein ready to be used for repair. Reversal of the vein must also be confirmed as venous valves will not permit flow in a retrograde fashion.

9. Soft tissue coverage and an astamotic disruption 13,15

Pearls

- o Cover vascular repairs with available, viable local tissue (muscle and adipose)
- o If no soft tissue to cover, route grafts out of zone of injury
- o A poorly covered vascular anastamosis can "blowout," but not in the early (< 5 day) period
- Avoid direct placement of negative pressure wound therapy sponge on vascular structures

Soft tissue coverage of vascular repairs is required to assure incorporation and prevent infection and blowout. Option 1 is to immediately cover the repair with viable local soft tissue (muscle and adipose). The negative pressure wound therapy device (VAC®, Kinetic Concepts Inc) is useful on top of such coverage as it provides a closed dressing which removes wound effluent and decreases bacterial counts. This wound adjunct has been found to assist with accomplishing delayed primary closure of soft tissue wounds over vascular repairs or coverage with skin grafts. The reticulated open-cell foam sponge of the VAC® should not be placed directly on vessels, however when used over viable tissue covering the vascular repair, VAC® has resulted in excellent outcomes with no increase in graft-related complications or blowouts.

If no tissue is available to cover the vascular repair, one can rout an interposition graft out of the zone of injury through another myocutaneous or even subcutaneous path. As a last resort, the vascular reconstruction can be left with marginal coverage at level II and III facilities; however in these cases close examination must occur at level IV and V centers. In these rare instances higher levels of care should pursue transfer of viable tissue from other locations (sartorius, rectus abdominus or other muscle) in order to definitively cover the repair within 5-7 days. Although it is acceptable for level II and level III providers to leave a graft with uncertain coverage, the onus of care then falls heavily on level IV and V facilities to inspect, cover, re-route or even ligate the graft to reduce the risk of catastrophic blowout.

It is important to recognize that even in the best of civilian and wartime circumstances that there has been historically and remains currently is a finite risk of anastamotic disruption.

Using the management strategies described above the risk of graft blowout has been within an acceptably low range of 1-2% throughout the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

10. Anticoagulation/ Recombinant factor VII use

Pearls

- Heparin saline is typically 1000u/liter although other mixtures with or without papaverine are acceptable; there is no evidence that other 'vein solutions' offer any advantage
- O Systemic anticoagulation is achieved with 50 u/kg of IV heparin with 1000 u repeated at 1 hr; repeat doses are not recommended given the propensity for bleeding in wartime injury
- o "Regional anticoagulation" is the use of heparin saline flush in the inflow/outflow vessels
- O The use of recombinant factor VII has been shown not to negatively impact vascular injury repair. However, its remains a legitimate concern in this setting and its use should be limited to instances of refractory, non-surgical bleeding (e.g. coagulopathy of TBI).

TRAUMA-SPECIFIC ENDOVASCULAR INVENTORY TABLES

Table 1. Imaging Systems, Endovascular Accessories, Wires and Sheaths

Imaging systems a	nd hardware			
Description			Q	Quantity
General Electric Mobile Fluoroscopic Unit with Vascular Imaging Package			2	
(9800 or Greater) (at L				
Or We fluoro				
				vith vasc kage + 1 in
Philips BV	Pulsera with Va	ascular Imaging Package Mobile Fluoroscopy Unit	stora	ge- this has
			pro	ven itself)
		ntrast Injection System (not CT Scan Component) PPD 110 60 507 with Initial Disposables		1
Zonare Z.ONE M	Mobile Ultrasou	nd Machine with Peripheral Vascular Imaging Package		1
		oro Table: Steris Surgigraphic 6000 olts: 100/120/220/230-240 Amps: 5.0/4.2/2.4/2.0 Hz 50/60		1
Accessories		,		
Company	Catalog #	Description		Quantity
Boston Scientific	44-169	Arterial Entry Needle/18 gauge (box 10)	Arterial Entry Needle/18 gauge (box 10)	
Navilyst	45-994	Mini-Stick/5 Fr/Nitinol w/Plat tip Wire (micro-puncture k	it)	20
Boston Scientific	15-105	Inflation Device (Each)		5
Boston Scientific	46-550	Torque Device (box 12)	Torque Device (box 12)	
Boston Scientific	15-322	Gateway Y-Adapter (box 10)		20
Navilyst	90510002	Off-line Waste Container+/500 mL capacity		40
Navilyst	Vavilyst 70055009 Namic 3-way Stopcock+/Rotating Adaptor, Port on Right/1050 psi		50	
Navilyst 91051483 Female to rotating adapter 48" flexCI (1200PSI) high pressure injection tubing		sure	25	
Wires				
Company	ompany Catalog # Description		Quantity	
Boston Scientific	46-502	Amplatz Super Stiff TM Wire/.035/260cm/J-tip (box 5)		10
Boston Scientific	46-525	Amplatz Super Stiff TM Wire/.035cm/180 (box 5)		10
Boston Scientific	on Scientific 46-526 Amplatz Super Stiff TM Wire/.035cm/260cm (box 5)			10
Boston Scientific	entific 46-152 Zipwire TM /.035/180cm/angled tip (box 5)			10
Boston Scientific				10
Boston Scientific 49-147 Standard starter wire with Bentson or J-tip/.035/180cm (box 5)		10		
Boston Scientific	49-157	Standard Rosen starter wire /.035/260cm (box 5)		10

Guideline Only/Not a Substitute for Clinical Judgment June 2012

Table 1. Imaging Systems, Endovascular Accessories, Wires and Sheaths

Sheaths				
Company	Catalog #	Description	Quantity	
Starter and Short Sheaths				
Boston Scientific	15-711B	Super Sheath TM /5 Fr/11cm	10	
Boston Scientific	15-962B	Super Sheath TM RO/6 Fr /11cm	10	
Boston Scientific	15-963B	Super Sheath™ RO/7 Fr /11cm	10	
Boston Scientific	15-964B	Super Sheath™ RO/8 Fr /11cm	10	
Boston Scientific	15-966B	Super SheathC RO/7 Fr /25cm (box 10)	10	
Boston Scientific	15-967B	Super Sheath™ RO/8 Fr /25cm (box 10)	10	
Boston Scientific	15-969B	Super Sheath™ RO/9 Fr /11cm (box 10)	10	
Boston Scientific	15-727B	Super Sheath TM /11 Fr /11cm (box 10)	10	
Boston Scientific	15-740B	Super Sheath TM/14 Fr/11 cm (box 10)	10	
Boston Scientific	15-739B	Super Sheath TM/14 Fr/25 cm (box 10)	10	
Long, Small Diame	ter Sheaths			
Terumo	RSR01	Destination® Sheath/6 Fr/45cm	5	
Terumo	RSC05	Destination® Sheath/6 Fr /90cm	5	
Long, Large Diame	ter Sheaths		·	
Arrow International	CL-07980	Super ArrowFlex TM /9 Fr /80 cm	4	
Arrow International	CL-71180	Super ArrowFlex TM /11 Fr /80 cm	4	
Cook, Inc	G09691	Check-Flo TM G09691 RCFW-16.0P-38-30-RB/16Fr/30cm	4	

Table 2, Catheters and Balloons

Company	npany Catalog # Description		Quantity
Catheters	,		
Boston Scientific	31-531	Imager™ II/Contralateral Flush/5/65cm	10
Boston Scientific	31-515	Imager™ II/Pigtail Flush/5Fr/100cm	10
Boston Scientific	31-410	Imager™ II/BERN/5Fr/65cm	10
Boston Scientific	31-405	Imager™ II/BERN/5Fr/100cm	10
Boston Scientific	31-414	Imager TM II/H1/5Fr/100cm	10
Boston Scientific	31-458	Imager TMII/Contra 2/5Fr/65cm	10
Cook Medical	G11209	Beacon Tip Visceral Selective HNBR5.0-38-80-P-NS-VS	10
Terumo Medical	CG505	Glidecath®/5/ST/65cm±	15
Terumo Medical	CG506	Glidecath®/5/ST/100cm±	15
AngioDynamics	12401812	Uni*fuse TM Infusion/Thrombolytic Catheter/5Fr x135cmx10cm infusion lengthΔ	2
AngioDynamics	12401813	Uni*fuse TM Infusion/Thrombolytic Catheter/5Fr x135cmx20cm infusion lengthΔ	2
AngioDynamics	12401815	Uni*fuse™ Infusion/Thrombolytic Catheter/5Fr x135cmx40cm length∆	2
Angioplasty and Cor	mpliant Occlusio	n Balloons	·
Medtronic, Inc.	REL46	Reliant TM Large diameter (46mm) occlusion balloon* (100cm length, 12 Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-566	UltraThin TM SDS/4-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (5Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-568	UltraThin TM SDS/4-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (5Frsheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-596	UltraThin TM SDS/5-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (5Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-598	UltraThin TM SDS/5-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (5Frsheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-626	UltraThin TM SDS/6-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (5Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-628	UltraThin TM SDS/6-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (5Frsheath)	
Boston Scientific	17-656	UltraThin TM SDS/7-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (6Fr sheath)	
Boston Scientific	17-658	UltraThin TM SDS/7-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (6Frsheath)	2

Table 2, Catheters and Balloons

Company	Catalog #	Description	Quantity
Boston Scientific	17-686	UltraThin TM SDS/8-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (6Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-688	UltraThin TM SDS/8-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (6Frsheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-711	UltraThin TM SDS/9-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (7Fr sheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-713	UltraThin TM SDS/9-40mm/135 cm length delivery+ (7Frsheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-736	UltraThin TM SDS/10-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (7Frsheath)	2
Boston Scientific	17-738	UltraThin TM SDS/10-40mm/75 cm length delivery+ (7Frsheath)	2

Table 3, Endovascular Stents

Bare Metal, self-ex	panding			
Company	Catalog #	Description		Quantity
Boston Scientific	38948-6401	Sentinol TM 6x40mmx sheath)	135 cm length delivery+ (6Fr	2
Boston Scientific	38948-7401	Sentinol TM 7x40mmx sheath)	135 cm length delivery+ (6Fr	2
Boston Scientific	38948-8401	Sentinol TM 8x40mmx sheath)	135 cm length delivery+ (6Fr	2
Boston Scientific	38948-1401	Sentinol TM 10x40mm sheath)	x135 cm length delivery+ (6Fr	2
Covered, self-expa	nding endografts a	nd aortic/large vessel e	ndografts	
Company	Catalog #	Description		Quantity
W.L. Gore	VBC050502	Viabahn TM 5x50mmx (7Fr sheath)	Viabahn TM 5x50mmx120 cm length delivery (7Fr sheath)	
W.L. Gore	VBC060502	Viabahn TM 6x50mmx (7 Fr sheath)	Viabahn TM 6x50mmx120 cm length delivery (7 Fr sheath)	
W.L. Gore	VBC080502	Viabahn TM 8x50mmx (8 Fr sheath)	Viabahn TM 8x50mmx120 cm length delivery (8 Fr sheath)	
W.L. Gore	VBC100502	Viabahn TM 10x50mm (11 Fr sheath)	x110 cm length delivery	4
Company	Catalog #	Item#	Description	Quantity
Medtronic	TB2222C116X	M708499B001	TALENT Thoracic 22mm	1
Medtronic	TF2424C116X	M708499B001	TALENT Thoracic 24mm	1
Medtronic	TF2828C116X	M708499B001	TALENT Thoracic 28 mm	1
Company	Catalog #	Description	Description	
Medtronic	IEXC121255	AneuRx AAAdvantag	AneuRx AAAdvantage Iliac Limb Ext 12mm	
Medtronic	IEXC141455	AneuRx AAAdvantage Iliac Limb Ext 14mm		2
Medtronic	IEXC161655	AneuRx AAAdvantage Iliac Limb Ext 16mm		2
Medtronic	IEXC181855	AneuRx AAAdvantage Iliac Limb Ext 18mm		2
Medtronic	AEXC202040	AneuRx AAAdvantage Aortic Cuff Extension 20mm		2
Medtronic	AEXC242440	AneuRx AAAdvantag	AneuRx AAAdvantage Aortic Cuff Extension 24mm	
Medtronic	AEXC282840	AneuRx AAAdvantag	ge Aortic Cuff Extension 26 mm	2

Table 4, IVC Filters and Ancillaries

Catalog #	Description	Description		
IVC Filters, ret	trievable			
Cook, Inc	IGTCFS-65-JUG	Gunther-Tulip/Jugular	5	
Cook, Inc	IGTCFS-65-FEM	Gunther-Tulip/Femoral	5	
Embolics, Snar	es, Dilators, Thrombolyt	ics, and Low Osmolarity Contrast		
Coils, Cook N	Medical			
G10415	Tornado Platinum Co MWCE-35-5/3-TOR		10	
G10417	Tornado Platinum Co MWCE-35-7/3-TOR		10	
G10413	Tornado Platinum Co MWCE-35-10/5-TOF		10	
G26994		Nester Platinum Coils/.035/6mm MWCE-35-14-6-NESTER		
G26995		Nester Platinum Coils/.035/8mm MWCE-35-14-8-NESTER		
G26991		Nester Platinum Coils/.035/10mm 1 MWCE-35-14-10-NESTER		
G26992		Nester Platinum Coils/.035/12mm MWCE-35-14-12-NESTER		
Snares, Hatch	h Medical, Inc (Angiotecl	n)		
392006010	EN SNARE/6-10mm		5	
392006020	EN SNARE/12-20m	EN SNARE/12-20mm		
Dilators, Coo	ok Medical		<u> </u>	
G10284	AQ [®] Hydrophilic/6F	AQ [®] Hydrophilic/6F JCD6.0-35-20-HC		
G102898	AQ [®] Hydrophilic/6F	AQ [®] Hydrophilic/6F JCD8.0-38-20-HC		
Constrast/Th	arombolytics able in standard pharmacy/	OR packs)		
	Omnipaque 180		10	
	Tenektase (tPA)		10	