

Orthopaedics should be part of the trauma team??

B C Twaddle

Director of Orthopaedic Trauma
Auckland City Hospital

General Surgeon

Responsibilities are :

- Primary Survey
- Assessment of thorax, abdomen, pelvis, head and facial injuries. Log roll.
- Diagnostic peritoneal lavage.
- Urinary Catheter

Emergency Room Physician

- Assist with primary survey
- Intravenous access.
- Venous and arterial blood samples.
- Urinary Catheter.
- Assist with diagnostic peritoneal lavage.

Anaesthetist/ Intensivist

- Airway Control
- Cervical Spine Control
- Ventilation
- Monitoring of vital signs.
- Monitoring of fluid and drug administration.
- Analgesia
- Provide anaesthesia for surgical procedures

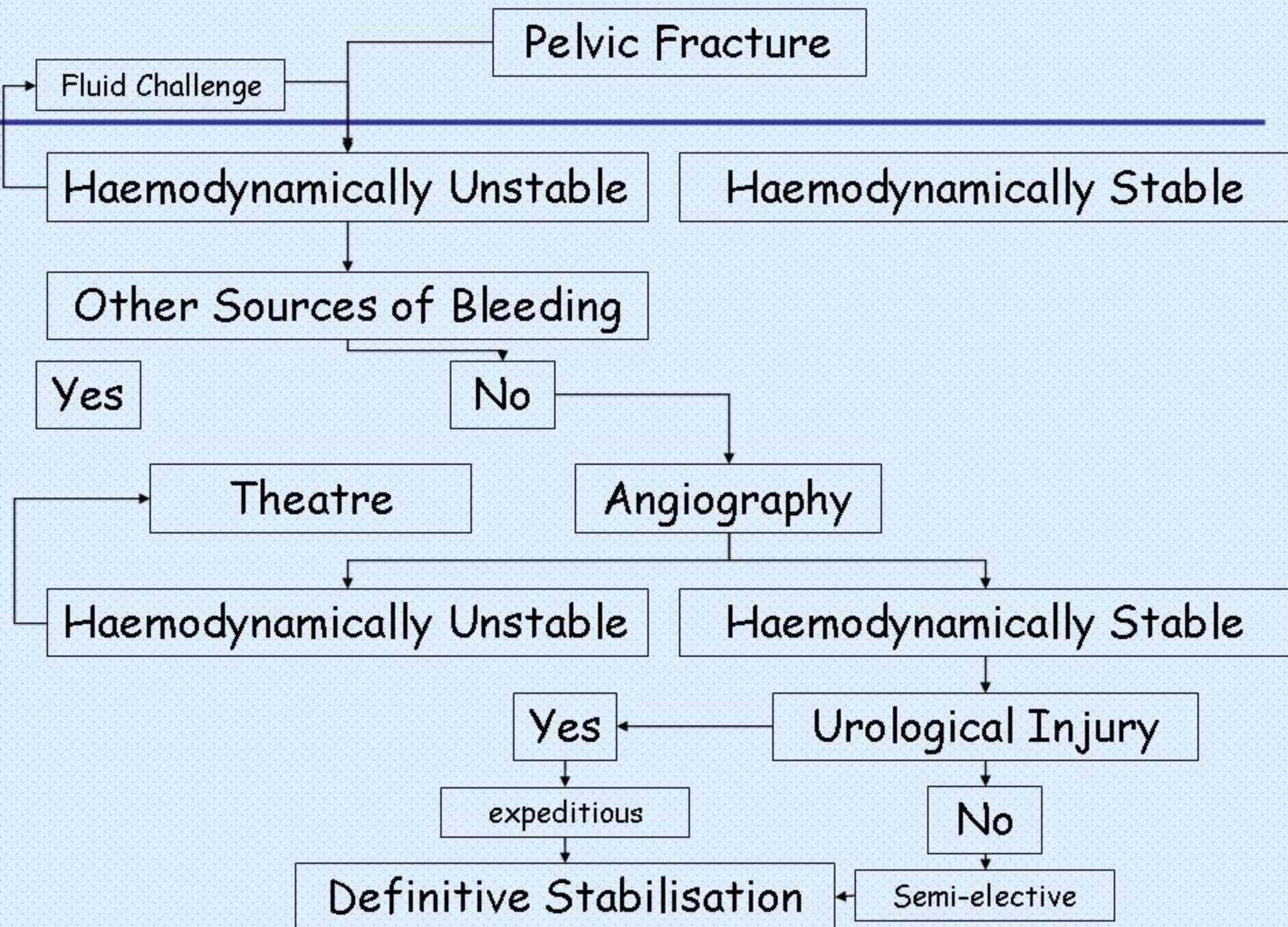
WHAT ABOUT THE SPINE??

What about the spine

- Clearing the spine requires clinical and radiological correlation
- Emergency spinal surgical management is usually performed within 6 to 12 hours
- No one dies from the spinal injury unless it is at a level incompatible with life

WHAT ABOUT THE PELVIS??





What about the pelvis

- Seldom needs emergency surgery
- Average time to treatment is 5 days
- 40 percent transferred in
- Sub-specialty surgical management

What about Orthopaedics

- Second line of treatment
- Often multiple procedures
- Often the longest surgical time

Where do the survivors go?

- Don't come back to the emergency dept
- Don't come back to surgical clinic
- They do come back to Orthopaedics

If definitive orthopaedic care is neglected....

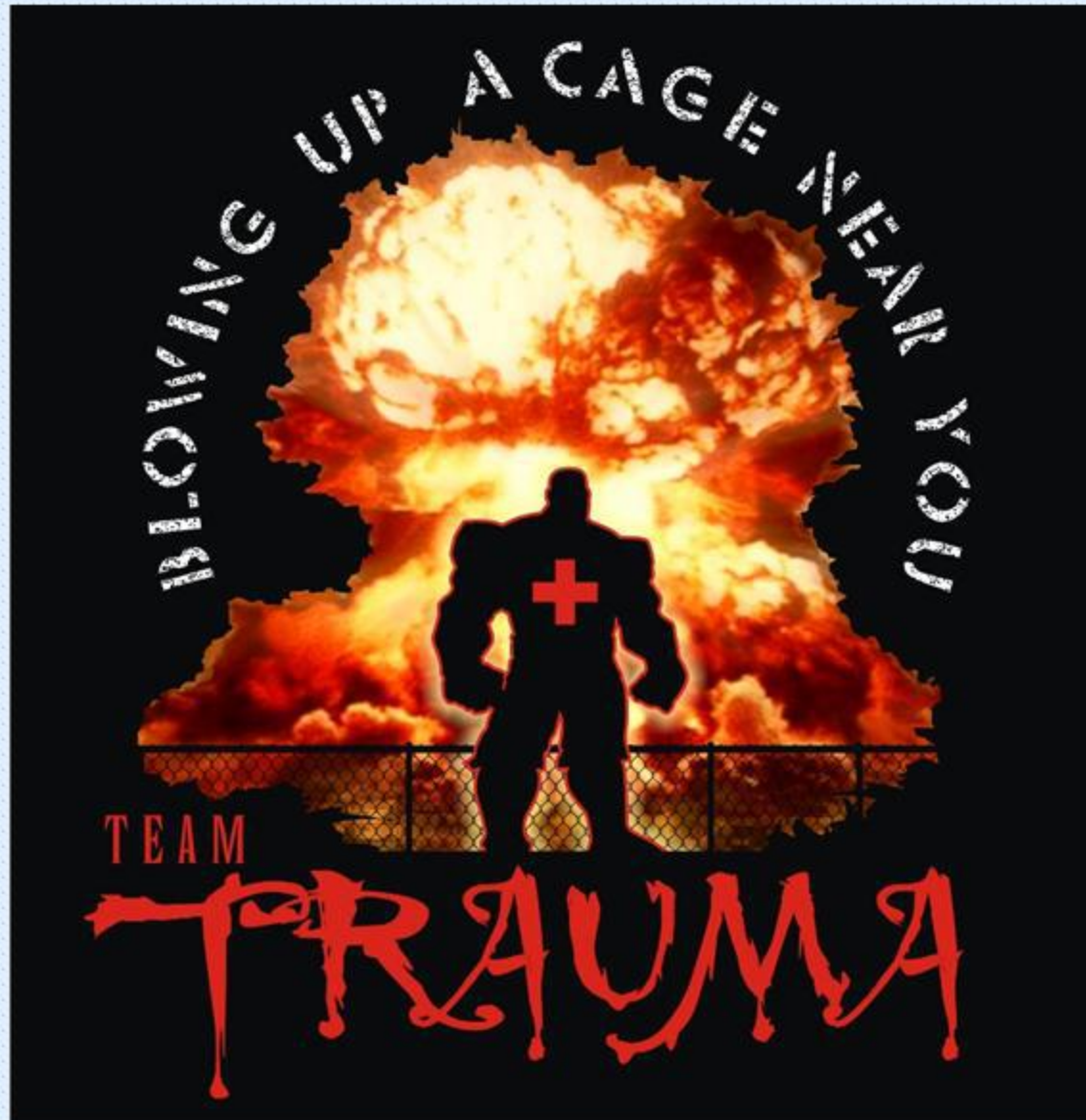
- The patient is a cripple for a lifetime
- Impacts on family, employment and relationships
- Good orthopaedic care requires timing, planning and surgery in the cold light of day



Should the Orthopod be on the
Trauma team??

NOT ON YOUR NELLY

The orthopaedic "trauma" team



The trauma team

- EMST recommendations
- ATLS recommendations
- Australasian and American college guidelines
- The trauma manual
- Wikipedia

The trauma team

An organised group of professionals who perform initial assessment and resuscitation of critically injured patients

The trauma team

The aim of the trauma team is to provide a safe and efficient evaluation of the patient. Identify all injuries and instigate definitive management of such injuries

Trauma team members

- Team Leader
- Trauma surgeon
- Emergency room physician
- Anaesthetist/Intensivist
- Trauma/Emergency room Nurses
- Emergency room resident(s)
- Anaesthetic technician
- Radiographer