Orthopaedics should be part of the trauma team??

B C Twaddle
Director of Orthopaedic Trauma
Auckland City Hospital
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??
Pelvic Fracture

Fluid Challenge

Haemodynamically Unstable

Other Sources of Bleeding

Yes

Theatre

Haemodynamically Unstable

No

Angiography

Haemodynamically Stable

Urological Injury

Yes

expeditious

Definitive Stabilisation

No

Semi-elective
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 Orthopedic 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
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