ATLS AND INNOVATIONS IN TRAUMA CARE

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Summer 1977 work begins on the first course

- *Paul E. (Skip) Collicott*
- *Irvene Hughes, RN*
- *Brent E. Krantz*
- *Others*

Prototype course construction

- basic chapters
- no new information
- different organization-ABCs
- treat life-threatening first, history later
- make-shift skills laboratory
What did the early course(s) look like?
- 2 ½ days
- Spiral bound notebook
- Content-consensus at beginning
- No reference material
- Lectures
- Skill stations
  - MAST
  - Gardner-Haag tongs
  - McSwain Dart
  - Venous cutdown
  - Spine boards
EMST Australia/NZ 1988

Trauma Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Early Management of Severe Trauma (EMST)

COURSE MANUAL

EMST is an adaptation of
Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS)

a program of
The Committee on Trauma
American College of Surgeons
Instructors Course 1980-84

- 2 ½-3 days
- “ATLS®-approved” educator
- Educational theory
- How to teach
  - lecture (set, dialogue, closure)
  - group discussion
  - the “problem student”
  - skills
Challenges/Solutions
Challenge: Additional learners

Physician Extenders
  • Critical part of healthcare team
  • Only provider in some areas
  • Skill equivalent to general practitioner
  • Little applicability internationally

Nurses
  • Critical part of the trauma team
  • Need similar skills
  • Occasionally alone
  • Common language
  • Can learn the skills and develop the knowledge base

Trainees/Medical Students
  • Critical part of training
  • All residents/students need this
  • Capable

Prehospital providers
  • Existing course
Solution: Embrace all participants
Challenge: Evidence of Impact

- No improvement over existing protocols
- Expensive
- No impact
- Supersedes clinical judgment
- One size fits all
Advanced Trauma Life Support, 8th Edition, The Evidence for Change

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The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma’s Advanced Trauma Life Support Course is currently taught in 50 countries. The 8th edition has been revised following broad input by the International ATLS subcommittee. Graded levels of evidence were used to evaluate and approve changes to the course content. New materials related to principles of disaster management have been added. ATLS is a common language teaching one safe way of initial trauma assessment and management.

Key Words: Wounds and Injuries, Traumatology [education], Life Support Care, Emergency Treatment [standards], Resuscitation [education].

Challenge: international partnership

- systems differences vs. North America
- technological variation
- unique trauma issues
- geography
- $\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
ATLS International is a monthly electronic newsletter that circulates the latest information on various regions including North America, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, and Asia and Australasia.
Challenge: Stale course design

- Motivation
  - Certification
  - Credentialing
  - Relevance
  - Redundancy

“....time to practice what we preach, huh...”
9th Edition ATLS iBook

Features
- Flash Cards
- Text highlighting
- Video Links
- End of Chapter self-check Questions

Updates
- Several chapters complete
- Release: Clinical Congress 2014
- Android version to come
Course redesign

- SEAB (Senior Educator Advisory Board)
- Instructor course redesign (9th edition)
- 10th edition changes
  - Skills station revisions
  - Schedule revisions
  - New content/concepts
    - Team training
  - Hybrid course
    - Online modules
    - In-person practice and testing
ATLS app

Number of downloads: ≈75,000

Number of countries: 176
  Tajikistan
  Maldives
  Burkina Faso
  Gabon
Summary

• The vision of a few can change the world
• Teaches *one* effective way—not the *only* way
• *It is not* cutting edge
• ATLS® will change
• The future?
  • Ongoing flexibility
  • Mobile learning platform
  • Modularity
• Learn from other courses