

Prehospital trauma care: a clinical review

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Abstract

Introduction: There are many controversies related to the trauma patient care during the pre-hospital period nowadays. Due to the heterogeneity of the rescue personnel and variability of protocols used in various countries, the benefit of the pre-hospital advanced life support on morbidity and mortality has been not established.

Method: Systematic review of the literature using computer search of the Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health International PubMed Medline database using Entre interface. We reviewed the literature in what concerns the basic and advanced life support given to the trauma patients during the prehospital period.

Results: Although the organization of the medical emergency system varies from a country to another, the level of patient's care can be classified into two main categories: Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS). There are many studies addressing what to be done at the scene. The pre-hospital care can be divided into two extremes: stay and play/treat then transfer or scoop and run/load and go.

Conclusions: A balance between "scoop and run" and "stay and play" is probably the best approach for trauma patients. The chosen approach should be made according to the mechanism of injury (blunt versus penetrating trauma), distance to the trauma center (urban versus rural) and the available resources.

Key words: trauma, prehospital care

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