

Trauma: Who cares?

A response on behalf of
ATLS



Patroclus is dead because:

- He is in the wrong place
- No-one has protected his airway
- Those looking after him are caring but inexperienced
- Senior help arrived too late

Advanced Trauma Life Support

- Strengths of ATLS
- Current areas of development
- Hopes for the future (wish list)



Advanced Trauma Life Support

- “From [Jim Styner’s] initial efforts came Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) and with it a new philosophy of care of the severely injured patient based around well thought through processes and teams trained in them – all adhering to the same workshop manual.”

Professor T Treasure
Chairman 2007

Advanced Trauma Life Support

- 1988 - ATLS lands in the UK
- 20 years of enthusiasm and commitment
- 2007
 - Over 16000 Providers
 - Over 1500 Instructors
 - 103 Centres
 - 3 Separate Courses

ATLS 2007

- Provider courses run - 237
- Providers trained - 4215
- Instructor courses run - 17
- Instructors trained - 270

Is ATLS fit for purpose? – A + B

- NCEPOD
 - “Airway and Breathing are Urgent Priority”
- ATLS manual
 - p42 - “Airway and Ventilation are the first priorities.”

Is ATLS fit for purpose? - C

- NCEPOD
 - “Investigations should be timely and appropriate. Senior input is vital.”
- ATLS manual
 - p109 - “Missed internal injuries remain the leading area of preventable mortality in the non-brain injured patient.”

Is ATLS fit for purpose? - D

- NCEPOD
 - “Neurosurgical input Urgent Priority”
- ATLS manual
 - p152 - “Consultation with a neurosurgeon early in the course of treatment is strongly recommended.”

Is ATLS fit for purpose? – Definitive Care

- NCEPOD
 - “There should be standardised transfer documentation of the patients details, injuries etc”
- ATLS manual
 - p152 - “Pre-arranged transfer agreements with high level facilities should be in place.”
 - “Uniform transmission of information is enhanced by the use of an established transfer form.”

In a wider sense...

- Treat the greatest threat to life first
- Time is of the essence
- Do no further harm
- Know your own limitations

Advanced Trauma Life Support

- The ATLS course provides a common language to all that care for the injured patient
 - [The strength is in the dogma]
- ATLS brings together different specialities outside the ED
 - [It's good to talk]

Some questions

- How are we ensuring ATLS fits current UK practice?
- How are we ensuring we are reaching the right doctors at the right time?
- How are we ensuring that skills are retained and refreshed?

ATLS Europe – 2005

- Created a voice that has been heard by the American College of Surgeons
- Been involved in writing the 8th Edition, particularly the use of supraglottic airway devices in the Airway chapter
- Rewritten MCQs and lecture slides to fit with UK teaching practices

Managing trauma – a medical career

- Medical Student ATLS principles (formalised into a basic trauma management course)
- Foundation eLearning Modules in preparation for ATLS
- Core Training ATLS provider
- Specialty Training ATLS recertification (1 day), Instructor course, specialised courses)
- Consultant As above

Other courses

- ATLS
Foundation Stone
- ERC Trauma Course
- APLS
- MOET
- MIMMS
- CCrISP
- TEAM UK
- PHTLS

Retaining and refreshing ATLS skills

- In 2008 we will launch the National Reverification Course
 - One day course
 - Multiple centres
 - Scenario based / Decision making
 - Refreshes skills
 - Includes changes / updates
 - Formal assessment

Wish list

- Formal introduction of ATLS principles into undergraduate training
- Commitment from those in charge of postgraduate training that ATLS forms an essential part of the curriculum
- Commitment from Trusts and Employers to recognise ATLS instructors' teaching time as part of job plans

Very old instructor!

Multispecialty faculty

Chair of ATNC

Enthusiastic providers

Medical student



Summary

- ATLS is a cornerstone of Trauma Care
- New developments will improve and strengthen the programme
- More commitment is needed to establish ATLS as a required part of training and CPD
- Employers must recognise the importance of ATLS