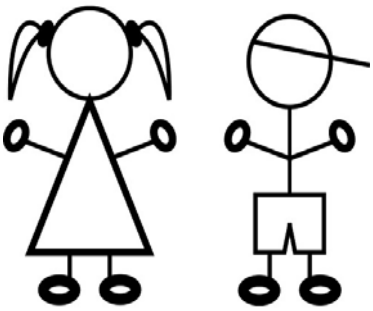
Quick Identification for patients meeting Trauma Registry Inclusion Criteria!



Divide the human body into critical body systems:

1. Head/Neck (includes C-spine)
2. Face (including mouth, ears, eyes, nose and facial bones)
3. Chest (includes diaphragm, ribs, thoracic spine)
4. Abdomen (includes lumbar spine)
5. Extremities (includes pelvis)

Grade each injury in each body system on a scale of 1-5, with 1=minimum injury and 5=maximum injury

Determine the severity for each of the body systems.

For instance, a simple skull fracture or concussion would rate a 2 in the scale of 1-5, while a person with an epidural or subdural hematoma (unconscious with a blown pupil) would rate a 4-5 based on size of bleed. Take the square of the rating (1-5) for the Injury Severity Score (ISS) of that particular injury or $4^2=16$.

Square the injuries in each body system, for instance:

Head: Concussion: $2^2=4$

Chest: Hemothorax with flail segment: $4^2=16$
Chest: Fractured T-3 without cord contusion (preservation of sensation and motor function) $2^2=4$

Abdomen: Grade 2 splenic fracture: $2^2=4$

Extremities: Fractured pelvis $3^2=9$
Fractured femur $3^2=9$

Choose the 3 body systems that have the highest score – in this case, the chest, the abdomen and the extremities have the highest scores. **Add the highest scores together and you have an approximation of the severity of injuries** for the patient: 16+9+9=34. The approximate Injury Severity Score for this patient is 34!

It's very important to understand that 3 "insignificant" injuries can add up very quickly. A patient with a concussion ($2^2=4$), a simple chest contusion ($2^2=4$) and a fractured femur ($3^2=9$) would have an Injury Severity Score of 17 and is considered a major trauma patient. This is even more important for any patient over 50 years of age – as these patients do not tolerate insults to more than one body system as well as the younger, healthy 22 year-old.

So….. the take-home message:

If you have a patient with an injury to one or more body systems that total 9 or more, chances are that the trauma coordinator/trauma registrar in your hospital will enter the information regarding this patient into the trauma registry. Use a trauma flow sheet in order to optimize your documentation and provide adequate documentation for the patient record and for your trauma registrar!