

1 **Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Evaluation of Adult Patients Presenting to the Emergency**
2 **Department with Acute Blunt Trauma**

3 This DRAFT is EMBARGOED – Not for Distribution
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6 From the American College of Emergency Physicians Clinical Policies Subcommittee (Writing Committee) on
7 Blunt Trauma
8

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53 Trauma

54 **ABSTRACT**

55 This clinical policy from the American College of Emergency Physicians is a revision of the
56 2018 “Clinical Policy: Critical Issues in the Evaluation of Adult Patients Presenting to the Emergency
57 Department with Acute Blunt Abdominal Trauma”.¹ A writing subcommittee conducted a systematic
58 review of the literature to derive evidence-based recommendations to answer the following clinical
59 questions: 1) In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, does whole-
60 body CT improve clinically important outcomes in hemodynamically stable patients? 2) In geriatric
61 patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, does age-based, differential trauma
62 triage reduce morbidity and/or mortality? 3) In adult patients presenting to the emergency department
63 with blunt trauma, what is the ideal blood product ratio to reduce morbidity and /or mortality in patients
64 requiring transfusion? 4) In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma,
65 does resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) reduce morbidity and/or
66 mortality in arrested or peri-arrest patients compared to ED thoracotomy? Evidence was graded and
67 recommendations were made based on the strength of the available data.

68

69 **INTRODUCTION**

70 Trauma is a leading cause of death in the United States and contributes to more years of potential
71 life lost compared to any other cause of death.^{2,3} Blunt trauma is the most common mechanism of injury.
72 The triage, evaluation, and treatment of these patients is a routine element of the practice of emergency
73 medicine.⁴ Consequently, there is substantial opportunity in the emergency department (ED) to
74 minimize preventable morbidity and mortality due to blunt trauma. This policy is an update of the 2018
75 American College of Emergency Physicians’ (ACEP) clinical policy on acute blunt abdominal trauma¹
76 which is now expanded to address acute blunt trauma not limited to the abdomen.

77 Despite the high prevalence of patients with blunt trauma, care of these patients is constantly
78 evolving and continues to present a clinical challenge. For example, occult injury remains common as
79 physical examination has limited accuracy in patients with altered mental status, intoxication, other
80 distracting injuries or even in asymptomatic patients with a normal sensorium.^{5,6} This fact, combined

81 with technical advances in CT, have resulted in changes to cross-sectional imaging protocols since the
82 last clinical policy update. Our understanding of the response of the geriatric population to blunt trauma
83 has also evolved and this has resulted in the variable incorporation of age into trauma triage. Lastly,
84 lessons learned from military trauma care, such as resuscitation with changing blood product ratios and
85 incorporation of advanced invasive techniques for managing non-compressible torso hemorrhage, have
86 been applied and studied in civilian blunt trauma.

87 This policy will address current challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of adult patients with
88 blunt trauma in the era of evolving cross sectional imaging approaches, differential trauma triage
89 incorporating age, blood product resuscitation ratios, and resuscitative endovascular balloon aortic
90 occlusion (REBOA).

91

92 **METHODOLOGY**

93 This ACEP clinical policy was developed by emergency physicians with input from medical
94 librarians and a patient safety advocate. It is based on a systematic review and critical, descriptive
95 analysis of the medical literature and is reported in accordance with Preferred Reporting Items for
96 Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines.⁷

97

98 **Search and Study Selection**

99 This clinical policy is based on a systematic review with a critical analysis of the medical
100 literature meeting the inclusion criteria. Searches of PubMed, SCOPUS, Embase, Web of Science, and
101 the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews were performed by a librarian. Search terms and
102 strategies were peer reviewed by a second librarian. All searches were limited to human studies
103 published in English. Specific key words/phrases, years used in the searches, dates of searches, and
104 study selection are identified under each critical question. In addition, relevant articles from the
105 bibliographies of included studies and more recent articles identified by committee members and
106 reviewers were included.

107 Two subcommittee members independently read the identified abstracts to assess them for
108 possible inclusion. Of those identified for potential inclusion, each full-length text was reviewed for
109 eligibility. Those identified as eligible were subsequently forwarded to the committee’s methodology
110 group (emergency physicians with specific research methodological expertise) for methodological
111 grading using a Class of Evidence framework (Appendix A.).

112

113 Assessment of Risk of Bias and Determination of Classes of Evidence

114 Each study identified as eligible by the subcommittee was independently graded by 2
115 methodologists. Grading was done with respect to the specific critical questions; thus, the Class of
116 Evidence for any one study may vary according to the question for which it is being considered. For
117 example, an article that is graded an “X” because of “inapplicability” for one critical question may be
118 considered perfectly relevant for another question and graded I to III. As such, it was possible for a
119 single article to receive a different Class of Evidence grade when addressing a different critical
120 question.

121 Design 1 represents the strongest possible study design to answer the critical question, which
122 relates to whether the focus was therapeutic, diagnostic, prognostic, or meta-analysis. Subsequent design
123 types (ie, design 2 and design 3) represent weaker study designs, respectively. Articles are then graded
124 on dimensions related to the study’s methodological features and execution, including but not limited to
125 randomization processes, blinding, allocation concealment, methods of data collection, outcome
126 measures and their assessment, selection and misclassification biases, sample size, generalizability, data
127 management, analyses, congruence of results and conclusions, and potential for conflicts of interest.

128 Using a predetermined process that combines the study’s design, methodological quality, and
129 applicability to the critical question, 2 methodologists independently assigned a preliminary Class of
130 Evidence grade for each article. Articles with concordant grades from both methodologists received that
131 grade as their final grade. Any discordance in the preliminary grades was adjudicated through
132 discussion, which involved at least 1 additional methodologist, resulting in a final Class of Evidence

133 assignment (ie, class I, class II, class III, or class X) (Appendix B). Studies identified with significant
134 methodologic limitations and/or ultimately determined to not be applicable to the critical question
135 received a Class of Evidence grade “X” and were not used in formulating recommendations for this
136 policy. However, the content in these articles may have been used to formulate the background and to
137 inform expert consensus in the absence of evidence. Question-specific Classes of Evidence grading may
138 be found in the Evidentiary Table included at the end of this policy.

139

140 Translation of Classes of Evidence to Recommendation Levels

141 Based on the strength of evidence for each critical question, the subcommittee drafted the
142 recommendations and supporting text, synthesizing the evidence using the following guidelines:

143 **Level A recommendations.** Generally accepted principles for patient care that reflect a high
144 degree of scientific certainty (eg, based on evidence from 1 or more Class of Evidence I, or multiple
145 Class of Evidence II studies that demonstrate consistent effects or estimates).

146 **Level B recommendations.** Recommendations for patient care that may identify a particular
147 strategy or range of strategies that reflect moderate scientific certainty (eg, based on evidence from 1 or
148 more Class of Evidence II studies or multiple Class of Evidence III studies that demonstrate consistent
149 effects or estimates).

150 **Level C recommendations.** Recommendations for patient care that are based on evidence from
151 Class of Evidence III studies or, in the absence of adequate published literature, based on expert
152 consensus. In instances where consensus recommendations are made, “consensus” is placed in
153 parentheses at the end of the recommendation.

154 There are certain circumstances in which the recommendations stemming from a body of
155 evidence should not be rated as highly as the individual studies on which they are based. Factors such as
156 consistency of results, the uncertainty of effect magnitude, and publication bias, among others, might
157 lead to a downgrading of recommendations. When possible, clinically oriented statistics (eg, likelihood
158 ratios [LRs], number needed to treat) are presented to help the reader better understand how the results

159 may be applied to the individual patient. This can assist the clinician in applying the recommendations
160 to most patients but allow adjustment when applying to patients with extremes of risk (Appendix C).

161

162 Evaluation and Review of Recommendations

163 Once drafted, the policy was distributed for internal review (by members of the entire
164 committee), followed by an external expert review and an open comment period for all ACEP
165 membership. Comments were received during a 60-day open comment period, with notices of the
166 comment period sent electronically to ACEP members, published in *EM Today*, posted on the ACEP
167 website, and sent to other pertinent physician organizations. The responses were used to further refine
168 and enhance this clinical policy, although responses did not imply endorsement. Clinical policies are
169 scheduled for revision every 3 years; however, interim reviews are conducted when technology,
170 methodology, or the practice environment changes significantly.

171

172 Application of the Policy

173 This policy is not intended to be a complete manual on the evaluation and management of
174 patients with suspected appendicitis but rather a focused examination of critical questions that have
175 particular relevance to the current practice of emergency medicine. The potential benefits and harms of
176 implementing recommendations are briefly summarized within each critical question.

177 It is the goal of the Clinical Policies Committee to provide evidence-based recommendations
178 when the scientific literature provides sufficient quality information to inform recommendations for a
179 critical question. When the medical literature does not contain adequate empirical data to inform a
180 critical question, the members of the Clinical Policies Committee believe that it is equally important to
181 alert emergency physicians to this fact.

182 This clinical policy is not intended to represent a legal standard of care for emergency
183 physicians. Recommendations offered in this policy are not intended to represent the only diagnostic or
184 management options available to the emergency physician. ACEP recognizes the importance of the

185 individual physician’s judgment and patient preferences. This guideline provides clinical strategies
186 based on medical literature to inform the critical questions addressed in this policy. ACEP funded this
187 clinical policy.

188
189 ***Scope of Application.*** This guideline is intended for physicians working in EDs.

190 ***Inclusion Criteria.*** This guideline is intended for non-pregnant adult blunt trauma patients.

191
192 ***Exclusion Criteria.*** This guideline is not intended for pediatric, pregnant, or penetrating trauma
193 patients.

194

195 **CRITICAL QUESTIONS**

196 **1. In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, does whole-body**
197 **CT improve clinically important outcomes in hemodynamically stable patients?**

198

199 **Patient Management Recommendations**

200 ***Level A recommendations.*** None specified.

201 ***Level B recommendations.*** None specified.

202 ***Level C recommendations.*** Due to the lack of quality evidence, use clinical judgement and
203 hospital-specific protocols to decide between selective CT and whole-body CT imaging in
204 hemodynamically stable, adult, blunt trauma patients. [Consensus]

205

206 Potential Benefit of Implementing the Recommendations:

207 The spectrum of trauma patients arriving at the emergency department is very broad. Given the
208 equipoise in risks and benefits of whole-body CT among hemodynamically stable trauma patients, using
209 clinical judgment will likely lead to the appropriate resource utilization, minimal radiation exposure, and
210 the best outcome for a given patient.

211 Potential Harm of Implementing the Recommendations:

212 Without clear decision-rules, over-use and under-use of whole-body CT in trauma is possible.
213 Over-use would result in additional cost, unnecessary radiation exposure, and potentially false positive
214 findings that require further evaluation and unnecessary risks. Under-use could result in missed
215 diagnoses and delays in diagnosis.

216
217 Key words/phrases for literature searches: nonpenetrating wounds, nonpenetrating injuries, blunt
218 trauma, blunt injuries, contusions, bruise, beating injuries, whole-body scan, pan scan, computed
219 tomography, CT, whole-body imaging, x-ray computed tomography, hemodynamics, stable
220 hemodynamics, hemodynamically stable, trauma centers, emergency departments, emergency wards,
221 emergency rooms, emergency services and variations and combinations of the key words/phrases.
222 Searches included January 2003 to the search dates of July 6, 2020, and May 20, 2021.

223 224 Study Selection:

225 Eight hundred and thirteen articles were identified in the searches. Forty-two articles were
226 identified from the search results for further review. After grading for methodologic rigor, 0 Class I
227 studies, 0 Class II studies, and 0 Class III studies were included for this question.

228 229 **Main Text**

230 There were 42 articles identified to help answer the question, however they were all deemed to
231 be either low relevance regarding this critical question or low quality as assessed by the methodologists.
232 No articles were graded as level 3 or higher. Nevertheless, there are insights that may be relevant to
233 emergency physicians.

234 Whole-body CT has become commonplace in the evaluation of trauma patients.⁸ There are
235 several meta-analyses that demonstrate a mortality benefit for patients who meet “trauma activation
236 criteria” or the need for a trauma team evaluation.⁹⁻¹¹ In addition, multiple studies also report the benefit
237 of identifying unexpected findings and change in management.^{12,13} Within this cohort that meet trauma

238 activation criteria, the injury severity can vary tremendously and it is possible that the benefits are
239 driven by the select cohort of more severely injured patients, whereas this question focuses on whole-
240 body CT in the hemodynamically stable patient population.

241 REACT-2, a large, multicenter randomized trial by Sierink et al¹⁴ concluded that whole-body CT
242 compared to selective imaging did not demonstrate a difference in mortality. This widely cited study
243 was excluded from consideration because it provided only indirect evidence to answer our question and
244 had important methodologic limitations. We considered this study indirect evidence as it studied a
245 mixed population of hemodynamically unstable and stable patients. The important methodologic
246 limitations resulting in additional downgrading of this study to an X included: randomization without
247 concealment, inability to blind physicians and patients, and approximately 15% of the patients were
248 excluded after randomization without a clearly reported reason.

249 The additional studies evaluated and graded X did not contribute substantially to our
250 recommendation.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ All demonstrated that injuries of uncertain clinical significance were found by
251 whole-body CT. Some authors concluded that these injuries were not impactful, while others concluded
252 that that they were important.¹⁵⁻¹⁷

253

254 Brief Summary

255 In summary, the yield of clinically important outcomes from whole-body CT among
256 hemodynamically stable trauma patients is low. However, unexpected significant injuries and
257 emergency interventions are occasionally identified. Whether early identification and intervention for
258 these injuries results in improved clinically important outcomes remains unclear. Consequently, we
259 recommend using clinical judgement and local protocols in the use of whole-body CT versus selective
260 CT in hemodynamically stable blunt trauma patients.

261 Future Research

262 A large high quality randomized trial comparing whole-body CT to selective CT for
263 hemodynamically stable trauma patients with a reliable exam using a clear, widely accepted definition

264 of a clinically important injury, is necessary to answer this question and help guide emergency
265 physicians on best practices in CT imaging of trauma patients.

266

267 **2. In geriatric patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, does age-**
268 **based, differential trauma triage reduce morbidity and/or mortality?**

269 **Patient Management Recommendations**

270 *Level A recommendations.* None specified.

271 *Level B recommendations.*

272 Emergency physicians should factor age (greater than 65 years) into triage of older adult trauma patients
273 as they have increased morbidity and mortality, compared with similarly injured adults.

274 *Level C recommendations.* None specified.

275

276 **Potential Benefit of Implementing the Recommendations**

277 Incorporating age into trauma triage for older adult blunt trauma patients would enhance early
278 identification of at-risk patients. This could lead to more timely diagnostic evaluation and therapeutic
279 interventions in this time-dependent disease with resultant improved outcomes.

280

281 **Potential Harm of Implementing the Recommendations**

282 Incorporating age into trauma triage for older adult blunt trauma patients may decrease the
283 specificity and increase resource utilization without consequent improvement of morbidity and
284 mortality. Additionally, unnecessary diagnostic evaluation and treatment may occur when an older
285 patient is incorrectly triaged to be high risk.

286

287 Key words/phrases for literature searches:

288 nonpenetrating wounds, nonpenetrating injuries, blunt trauma, blunt injuries, contusions, bruise,
289 beating injuries, geriatric, aged, older adult, elder, elderly, gerontology, triage, differential triage, age-

290 based triage, morbidity, mortality, death, trauma centers, emergency departments, emergency wards,
291 emergency rooms, emergency services and variations and combinations of the key words/phrases.
292 Searches included January 2003 to the search dates of July 6, 2020 and May 20, 2021.

293

294 Study Selection:

295 Eight hundred and sixteen articles were identified in the searches. Seventy-four articles were
296 identified from the search results for further review. After grading for methodologic rigor, 0 Class I
297 studies, 0 Class II studies, and 6 Class III studies were included for this question.

298 **Main Text**

299 Age is a risk factor for mortality in trauma patients.¹⁸⁻²⁰ The older population has decreased
300 physiologic reserve compared with their younger counterparts. Additionally, immune function is
301 impaired, and older adults have unique alterations in pulmonary function and cardiovascular response to
302 injury and shock. Polypharmacy is common, and many older patients are on anticoagulation. Early
303 identification of an at-risk population is the goal of trauma triage as there is evidence that improved
304 outcomes occur when early intensive monitoring and aggressive fluid resuscitation is performed.^{21,22}

305 The National Guidelines for the Field Triage of Injured patients in 2021: Recommendations of
306 the National Expert Panel on Field Triage²³ uses a criterion of age greater than 65 years with a systolic
307 blood pressure (SBP) less than 110 mmHg or HR greater than SBP for recommending medical care in a
308 specialized trauma centers. This is changed from prior guidelines in which age was considered but there
309 were the same recommendations for SBP as there were for all adults. For older adults, the benefit of
310 specialized tertiary trauma centers is less clear than for children or other adult patients.

311 The effectiveness of field triage is commonly looked at by the degree of over- and under-triage.
312 Under-triage has been shown to be the highest in older adults and half of seriously injured adults are
313 treated in non-trauma centers in the United States.²⁴⁻²⁷ This under-triage suggests that the older adult is
314 not consistently being taken to hospitals best equipped to meet their needs. This is not unique to the
315 United States. Destination non-compliance led to poorer outcomes for older trauma patients. It has been

316 shown that not only were older adults under triaged compared to their younger counterparts, but a larger
317 proportion of the in-hospital deaths occur in centers with no major trauma services compared to major
318 trauma centers.²⁸

319 In a Class III, retrospective cohort study by Lim et al,²⁹ the mortality of older adult, even when
320 risk stratified, was increased by 2.7% for each year of life. Additionally, in a Class III study by
321 Ahmed¹⁹, the authors evaluated patients 65 years and older who look normal after a fall from ground
322 level at home. In this study of 40,800 patients 938 (2.3%) patients died in the hospital. and logistic
323 regression showed older age was associated with a higher risk of in-hospital mortality.

324 The additional Class III studies included for review here are also retrospective reviews of trauma
325 databases.³⁰⁻³³ They look at modifying the criteria, for adult trauma triage based on age to determine
326 either the effects on morbidity and mortality or the criteria's ability to predict morbidity and mortality.
327 As we know that early intervention in severely injured trauma improves morbidity and mortality, these
328 studies can provide only indirect evidence of benefit or harm.

329 The Class III study by Ichwan³⁰ defined patients aged 70 years or older as "geriatric." Based on
330 age, this study modified multiple elements of the trauma triage criteria to assess a revised older adult
331 trauma triage. Of 101,577 patients, 33,379 (33%) were aged ≥ 70 years old. This cohort of older adults
332 were less severely injured, with only 13% having an Injury Severity Score (ISS) greater than 15
333 indicating moderate to severe injury, compared with 29% of younger adults. They were also less likely
334 to have an ICU stay (17% versus 28%) and an operating room procedure within 48 hours (13% versus
335 29%). Interestingly, despite the older group being less injured (lower ISS, fewer ICU and OR
336 admissions) the mortality between the 2 groups was similar with 6.8% of older adults and 9.3% of
337 younger adults dying in the ED or hospital. Modification of the adult trauma triage as described
338 improved sensitivity from 61% (95% CI 60%, 62%) to 93% (95% CI 92%, 94%). There was a
339 concomitant modest decrease in specificity from 61% (95% CI 61%, 62%) to 49% (95% CI 48%, 49%).
340 The improvement in the test performance of this proposed "geriatric" trauma triage compared to non-
341 age-based criteria is demonstrated in the change in likelihood ratios, which were calculated based on the

342 study's data. With age-based triage the positive likelihood ratio improved from 1.6 to 1.8 and the
343 negative likelihood ratio improved more dramatically from 0.8 to 0.1. This suggests the geriatric criteria
344 improve our ability to identify older patients with serious injuries, need for operative or ICU care, or
345 death.

346 In another Class III study, Brown³¹ evaluated the performance of substituting an SBP of less than
347 110 mm Hg for the current SBP of less than 90 mm Hg criterion. The primary outcome was under- and
348 over-triage as defined by the ISS, which is an established surrogate for clinical outcome for trauma
349 activation criteria. In this 12-year study 428,828 older adults were identified, they found that substituting
350 an SBP of less than 110 mm Hg for the current SBP of less than 90 mm Hg in older patients achieves a
351 reduction in 4.4% under-triage with a 4.3 % increase in over-triage. Regarding mortality, the older
352 patients with SBP of 90 mm Hg to 109 mm Hg had an odds of mortality similar to older patients with
353 SBP of less than 90 mm Hg (adjusted odds ratio, 1.03; 95% confidence interval, 0.88–1.20; $p = 0.71$).

354 Anantha et al³² evaluated whether a geriatric-specific (age ≥ 65 years) triage protocol
355 appropriately identified severely injured (ISS >15) trauma patients. The modified criteria for trauma
356 activation included: SBP less than 110 mm Hg (rather than 90 mm Hg), HR less than 50 or greater than
357 100 bpm, any MVC or fall from any height. They report that 61% of the severely injured older patients
358 were under-triaged despite the geriatric-specific trauma triage protocol. Fortunately, mortality in the
359 under-triaged group was 5% vs the 31% in the correctly identified group. They concluded that despite
360 geriatric triage protocols, older adults remain under-triaged as measured by ISS, but that age-based
361 protocols do capture the highest risk patients.

362 In 2018, Hung et al³³ published the performance of the activation criteria for the trauma system
363 in Hong Kong where the trauma team activation (TTA) criteria have been specifically modified for older
364 adults and included risk factors such as rib fractures. In this 10-year cohort study (2006 to 2015), 2218
365 patients over the age of 55 were identified. The 30-day mortality was 7.5% for those aged 55–70 and
366 17.7% for those above 70 years of age. The under-triage rate was 59% for age 55–70, and 69.1% for
367 those aged above 70. The sensitivity of TTA in identifying severe outcomes decreases as the age

368 increases. This study reinforces that age is an important triage criteria and possibly specific criteria
369 should be developed for patients older than 70 years of age.

370

371 Brief Summary

372 With advancing age in adult blunt trauma patients, standard trauma triage criteria under perform
373 in predicting severity of illness and outcomes. Age based trauma triage improves the criteria's ability to
374 prevent under-triage and limit over-triage. As there is evidence of under- and over-triage's impact on
375 morbidity and mortality, there is indirect evidence supporting age-based trauma triage to improve patient
376 outcomes.

377 Future Research

378 The definition of geriatric is still variable in research (ranging from an age cutoff of 55 years to
379 70 years). Future research should focus on an acceptable definition of the older trauma patient and
380 determine subpopulations who will benefit from triage to major trauma centers., The direct effect on
381 morbidity, mortality, resource utilization, and the effectiveness of trauma system implementation should
382 be prospectively assessed.

383 Further work incorporating both quantitative and qualitative methods will be required to better
384 understand factors to address how to manage the older trauma patient and identify appropriate remedies
385 and their implementation. This should focus on geographic differences, patient preferences, EMS
386 provider training and preferences, structure of the EMS system, and local facility factors.

387

388 **3. In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, what is the ideal**
389 **blood product ratio to reduce morbidity and /or mortality in patients requiring transfusion?**

390

391 **Patient Management Recommendations**

392 *Level A recommendations.* None specified.

393 *Level B recommendations*

394 In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, use a fresh frozen
395 plasma (FFP): platelet: packed red blood cells (PRBC) ratio from 1:1:1 to 1:1:1.5 to reduce 24-
396 hour mortality without increasing morbidity.

397 ***Level C recommendations.*** None specified.

398

399 Potential Benefit of Implementing the Recommendations

- 400 • Administration of recommended blood product ratios within 6 hours of resuscitation may
401 decrease 24-hour mortality, exsanguination and hypothermia.
- 402 • The identification of optimal goal of blood product ratio will allow trauma centers and blood
403 banks to protocolize massive transfusion protocols (MTP) to improve consistency of high-quality
404 care.

405

406 Potential Harm of Implementing the Recommendations

407 Increased FFP and platelet ratios may create new needs and stress on the existing limited blood product
408 supply.

409

410 Key words/phrases for literature searches:

411 nonpenetrating wounds, nonpenetrating injuries, blunt trauma, blunt injuries, contusions, bruise,
412 beating injuries, blood transfusion, blood product, blood product ratio, leukocyte transfusion, blood
413 platelet transfusion, massive transfusion protocol, autologous blood transfusion, erythrocyte transfusion,
414 morbidity, mortality, death, trauma centers, emergency departments, emergency wards, emergency
415 rooms, emergency services and variations and combinations of the key words/phrases. Searches
416 included January 2003 to the search dates of July 6, 2020 and May 20, 2021.

417

418 Study Selection:

419 Eight hundred and six were identified in the searches. Two-hundred and ninety articles were
420 identified from the search results for further review. After grading for methodologic rigor, 0 Class I
421 studies, 0 Class II studies, and 5 Class III studies were included for this question.

422

423 Text

424 Hemorrhage is a leading cause of death in blunt trauma. Massive Transfusion Protocols (MTPs)
425 have been utilized to prevent mortality from hemorrhage. Massive transfusion is defined as >10 units of
426 packed red cells over 24 hours.³⁴⁻⁴⁵ Massive transfusion is an independent risk factor for mortality and
427 morbidity and is associated with acute coagulopathy and severe immunologic responses⁴⁶⁻⁴⁹ leading to
428 Multiorgan Failure (MOF) and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS).⁵⁰⁻⁵⁵ Acute coagulopathy
429 is also a complication in 2% to 34% of blunt trauma patients receiving MTP, and is an independent
430 factor associated with mortality.^{47,56,57} Ratios of blood product, specifically ratios of fresh frozen plasma
431 (FFP) and platelets to packed red blood cells (PRBC) (FFP: platelets: PRBC), administration in MTP
432 has evolved over time. Additionally, damage control surgery has changed the utilization of blood
433 products and in recent times, FFP: platelet: PRBC ratios of 1:1:1 are frequently employed in clinical
434 practice based on US military experience.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ Given the complex nature of MTPs, the proportion of
435 FFP: platelets: PRBC is a topic of interest and varying ratios are employed and recommended by
436 different societies.⁶¹ We performed a comprehensive review of the medical literature comparing adult
437 trauma patients requiring transfusions in blunt trauma patients. The literature review yielded 806
438 publications. Articles were excluded due to poor study design, incorrect population, incorrect
439 intervention, or incorrect outcomes. Of the 25 remaining publications, 20 were deemed to be low
440 relevance with regard to the critical question or low methodologic as assessed by the methodologists and
441 5 level III studies are included in this policy.⁶²⁻⁶⁶

442 In order to understand the methods and findings of these studies, a point of mathematical
443 nomenclature used in this literature must be clarified. When discussing ratios of units of FFP or platelets
444 to PRBC, a ratio of 1:1 is greater than 1:2, just as 1 divided by 1 is greater than 1 divided by 2. This

445 applies to the nomenclature for multiple ratios as well. Hence a ratio of FFP: platelet: PRBC of 1:1:1 is
446 greater than 1:1:1.5 which is greater than 1:1:2.

447 The first study by Brown et al⁶² in 2012 was a multicenter prospective cohort study. In this
448 study, a high FFP/PRBC ($\geq 1:1.5$) ratio was analyzed as a time dependent variable and at 6 hours
449 was independently associated with reduction in 6, 12 and 24-hour mortality and a high FFP/PRBC
450 ($\geq 1:1.5$) ratio at 12 hours was independently associated with a mortality reduction at 12 hours and
451 24 hours, and a high ratio at 24 hours was associated with a decline in mortality at 24 hours. Similarly,
452 high platelet/PRBC ($\geq 1:1.5$) ratio was associated with an independent reduction in mortality.

453 A high ratio of FFP/PRBC or platelet/PRBC at 6 and 12 hours did not increase the risk of
454 developing MOF, nosocomial infection (NI), or ARDS during admission. This study showed that early
455 resuscitation using high FFP/PRBC and platelet/PRBC ratios leads to reduced mortality at 6 hours
456 and throughout the first 24 hours from injury. When time-dependent analysis was performed, an
457 increasing FFP/PRBC and platelet/PRBC ratio prevents early death from hemorrhage.⁶²

458 The study by Reynolds et al⁶³ was also a multicenter prospective cohort study of 1961 patients
459 and it suggests that even in those patients requiring massive transfusions who received a high
460 FFP/PRBC transfusion ratio, a temperature lower than 34 C° was not a significant independent
461 risk factor for mortality (OR, 1.8; 95% CI, 0.9, 33.5) as opposed to low FFP/PRBC ratio group with
462 more than a two-fold higher risk of mortality (OR, 2.2; 95% CI, 1.1±4.2). Hypothermia is common in
463 temperature induced coagulopathy (TIC) patients and is associated with a greater independent risk of
464 mortality of more than 85% in patients requiring MTP. This study suggests that effect of hypothermia
465 can be controlled by the means of adequate resuscitation with high FFP/RBC ratio and may be the
466 underlying mechanism behind mortality benefit in high ratio group.

467 Hagiwara et al⁶⁴ conducted a retrospective observational study across 15 sites in Japan with 189
468 blunt trauma patients and propensity score matching was performed to compare the two groups (FFP:
469 PRBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6 h and FFP: PRBC ratio < 1 within the first 6 h). Patients with an FFP:

470 PRBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6h had significantly better survival, with an unadjusted hazard ratio of
471 0.44 and an adjusted hazard ratio of 0.29. Blunt trauma patients transfused with an FFP: RBC ratio ≥ 1
472 within the first 6 h after admission had an unadjusted hazard ratio of about 0.4 (95% CI 0.25, 0.74) and
473 an adjusted hazard ratio of 0.29 (95% CI 0.14, 0.62). This study suggested a benefit to an early
474 administration of FFP in severe blunt trauma patients requiring blood transfusion.

475 Holcomb et al⁶⁵ conducted the Pragmatic Randomized Optimal Platelet and Plasma Ratios
476 (PROPPR) Randomized Clinical Trial which was a pragmatic, phase 3, multisite, randomized clinical
477 trial of 680 severely injured patients across 12 level I trauma centers. In this trial, administration of FFP,
478 platelets, PRBC in a 1:1:1 ratio compared with a 1:1:2 ratio had no significant differences in 24 hours
479 mortality and 30-day mortality. However, higher rate of hemostasis in the 1:1:1 group and fewer deaths
480 in 24 hours due to exsanguination.

481 The last study that met inclusion was Sperry et al,⁶⁶ which was a multicenter prospective cohort
482 study evaluating clinical outcomes in blunt injured adults with hemorrhagic shock patients who received
483 an FFP: PRBC transfusion ratio $\geq 1:1.5$ compared to patients who received $< 1:1.5$. Patient receiving
484 greater ratios of FFP to PRBC had a significant lower risk of in-hospital mortality following massive
485 transfusion which was most pertinent for mortality within the first 48 hours. Cox proportional hazard
486 regression revealed that receiving a high ratio of FFP: PRBC was independently associated with lower
487 mortality when adjusted for likely confounders, HR 0.48, 95% CI 0.3, 0.8). This study showed a dose-
488 response relationship for mortality such that as FFP: PRBC ratio became smaller (less FFP relative to
489 PRBCs) the patients who received minimal or no FFP had the highest early 24-hour mortality.

490 In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, an FFP: platelet:
491 PRBC ratio between 1:1:1 and 1:1:1.5 is ideal to reduce 24-hour mortality. This ratio also decreases
492 exsanguination and FFP: PRBC ratios $\geq 1:1.5$ reduces risk of death by hypothermia in the first 24 hours
493 of resuscitation. FFP should be given within first 6 hours of resuscitation with goal of FFP: RBC $\geq 1:1.5$.

494

495 Brief Summary

496 Literature has recently supported use of 1:1:1 FFP: platelet: PRBC ratio. There is no significant
497 difference in morbidity in either 1:1:1 or 1:1:1.5 group.

498

499 Future Research

500 Laboratory guided resuscitation has been shown to have equivocal results with 1:1:1 FFP:
501 Platelet: RBC ratio with less of utilization of non PRBC blood products, which may not universally
502 available. Future trials to be designed with $\geq 1:1:1.5$ FFP: Platelet: RBC ratio, whole-blood, and
503 laboratory guided resuscitation.

504

505 **4. In adult patients presenting to the emergency department with blunt trauma, does resuscitative**
506 **endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta (REBOA) reduce morbidity and/or mortality in**
507 **arrested or peri-arrest patients compared to ED thoracotomy?**

508

509 **Patient Management Recommendations**

510 *Level A recommendations.* None specified.

511 *Level B recommendations.*

512 In arrested or peri-arrest adult, blunt trauma patients, do not routinely use REBOA over ED
513 thoracotomy.

514 *Level C recommendations.* None specified.

515

516 Potential Benefit of Implementing the Recommendations

517 Prevention of potential harms of REBOA if no benefit

518

519 Potential Harm of Implementing the Recommendations

520 Select, as of yet undefined, populations may benefit from REBOA.

521

522 Key words/phrases for literature searches:

523 nonpenetrating wounds, nonpenetrating injuries, blunt trauma, blunt injuries, contusions, bruise,
524 beating injuries, REBOA, Resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta, Cardiac Arrest,
525 Thoracotomy, cardiopulmonary arrest, asystoles, morbidity, mortality, death, trauma centers, emergency
526 departments, emergency wards, emergency rooms, emergency services and variations and combinations
527 of the key words/phrases. Searches included January 2003 to the search dates of July 6, 2020 and May
528 20, 2021.

529

530 Study Selection:

531 Eight hundred articles were identified in the searches. One hundred and sixty-eight articles were
532 identified from the search results for further review; 30 articles were sent to the methodologists for
533 grading. After grading for methodologic rigor, 0 Class I studies, 0 Class II studies, and 2 Class III
534 studies were included for this question.

535

536 Text

537 Traumatic arrest from non-compressible torso hemorrhage due to blunt trauma has a high
538 mortality.^{67,68} Hemorrhage control using ED resuscitative thoracotomy (RT) results in low survival rates
539 in arrested or peri-arrest blunt trauma patients.⁶⁹ Resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the
540 aorta (REBOA) has been proposed as an alternative to RT. This technique serves as a method of
541 temporary hemorrhage control as a bridge to definitive treatment. It has seen application in both military
542 and civilian trauma care.⁷⁰ The procedure uses common femoral artery catheter access to inflate an
543 occlusive balloon at different zones of the aorta. The aorta can be divided into three zones; zone 1 is
544 from the left subclavian artery to the celiac trunk, zone 2 is below the celiac and suprarenal, and zone 3

545 is infrarenal to the aortic bifurcation. REBOA is deployed in zone 1 for severe intra-abdominal or
546 retroperitoneal hemorrhage, whereas zone 3 is used for pelvic hemorrhage.⁷¹

547 In the early observational evaluation of REBOA in trauma, its use was associated with improved
548 mortality.^{69,72-86} However, these studies' design and execution commonly suffered survival bias and bias
549 by indication, as the patients undergoing RT typically had cardiac arrest in these cohorts.⁷⁰ These studies
550 often also included penetrating and blunt trauma patients, making the determination of value suspect in
551 blunt trauma patients specifically. Due to these confounders, it is unclear if these non-randomized,
552 observational studies compared two similar populations and were ultimately graded X in our evaluation.

553 We performed a comprehensive review of the medical literature comparing REBOA to RT in
554 arrested and peri-arrest blunt trauma patients. The literature review yielded 800 publications. Articles
555 were excluded due to poor study design, incorrect population, incorrect intervention, or incorrect
556 outcomes. Of the 32 remaining publications, 30 were excluded using our systematic grading criteria and
557 2 level III studies are included in this policy.^{67,68}

558 In the first study by Aso et al,⁶⁸ the investigators performed a retrospective review of the
559 National Inpatient Database in Japan from 2010 – 2014. Two hundred and fifty-nine trauma patients,
560 aged >15 years old, with uncontrolled hemorrhagic shock were included in their analysis. Penetrating
561 thoracic trauma patients were excluded. Importantly, the authors used propensity scoring to address the
562 potential biases of prior observational studies. The primary outcome was mortality and secondary
563 outcomes included ventilator-free days, total hospitalization costs, total amount of fluid resuscitation and
564 total transfusion within day 1. Using the propensity score-adjusted analysis, this study found no benefit
565 with REBOA versus RT in the primary outcome (hazard ratio 0.94; 95% CI, 0.60-1.48), nor in the
566 secondary outcomes. The author's concluded that in-hospital outcomes were not significantly different
567 between REBOA and RT in trauma patients with uncontrolled hemorrhage.⁶⁸

568 The second study graded level III, by Joseph et al,⁶⁷ was conducted in the US. The authors
569 performed a case-control retrospective analysis of the 2015-2016 American College of Surgeons Trauma
570 Quality Improvement Program (ACS-TQIP) dataset using an advanced propensity score matching
571 process. This larger study evaluated 420 total patients, of which 140 REBOA patients (cases) were
572 matched 1:2 with 280 non-REBOA patients (controls). The outcome measures were rates of mortality
573 and complications. The mortality was higher in the REBOA group (35.7% vs 18.9%, $p = 0.01$) and
574 specific complications, acute kidney injury and lower extremity amputation, were also higher, (10.7% vs
575 3.2%, $p = 0.02$) and (3.6% vs 0.7%, $p = 0.04$) respectively. Application of this study is limited by the
576 fact that it included penetrating trauma, albeit 92.1% were blunt trauma patients. The authors concluded
577 that REBOA was associated with higher mortality, acute kidney injury and lower leg amputation rates.⁶⁷

578 In addition to the level III evidence that does not show a benefit from REBOA in this patient
579 population, REBOA requires a multi-disciplinary team with structured protocols, policies, education and
580 quality assessments. The vast majority of trauma centers in the US do not have REBOA capabilities,
581 much less the majority of EDs.⁷⁰ Given that there is no demonstrated benefit, and may be harm, it is
582 unlikely to be cost effective to stand up these programs for use in this broadly defined blunt trauma
583 population of patients. There are existing REBOA programs that will continue to refine a potential
584 patient population that benefits from this intervention. Our recommendations do not apply to a military
585 setting or to penetrating trauma patients.

586

587 Summary

588 There are limitations, such as the inclusion of some penetrating trauma patients, to the highest
589 quality literature available to determine if there is benefit of REBOA versus RT. The best available
590 evidence concludes that REBOA is associated with no benefit and potential harm.^{67,68} Consequently, we
591 do not recommend its routine use in arrested and peri-arrest adult blunt trauma patients.

592

593 Future Research

594 At the time of this writing, there are ongoing trials of REBOA in other disease states including
595 post-partem hemorrhage and non-traumatic out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. These studies combined with
596 further insights from sub-groups of blunt trauma patients may give insight into a blunt trauma
597 population that may benefit. A randomized clinical trial of REBOA in a sub-population of arrested and
598 peri-arrest adult blunt trauma patients would be necessary to recommend its routine use.

599

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Appendix A. Literature classification schema.*

Design/ Class	Therapy[†]	Diagnosis[‡]	Prognosis[§]
1	Randomized, controlled trial or meta-analysis of randomized trials	Prospective cohort using a criterion standard or meta-analysis of prospective studies	Population prospective cohort or meta-analysis of prospective studies
2	Nonrandomized trial	Retrospective observational	Retrospective cohort Case control
3	Case series	Case series	Case series

627 *Some designs (eg, surveys) will not fit this schema and should be assessed individually.

628 [†]Objective is to measure therapeutic efficacy comparing interventions.

629 [‡]Objective is to determine the sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic tests.

630 [§]Objective is to predict outcome, including mortality and morbidity.

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632 **Appendix B.** Approach to downgrading strength of evidence.

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Design/Class

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Downgrading	1	2	3
None	I	II	III
1 level	II	III	X
2 levels	III	X	X
Fatally flawed	X	X	X

Appendix C. Likelihood ratios and number needed to treat.*

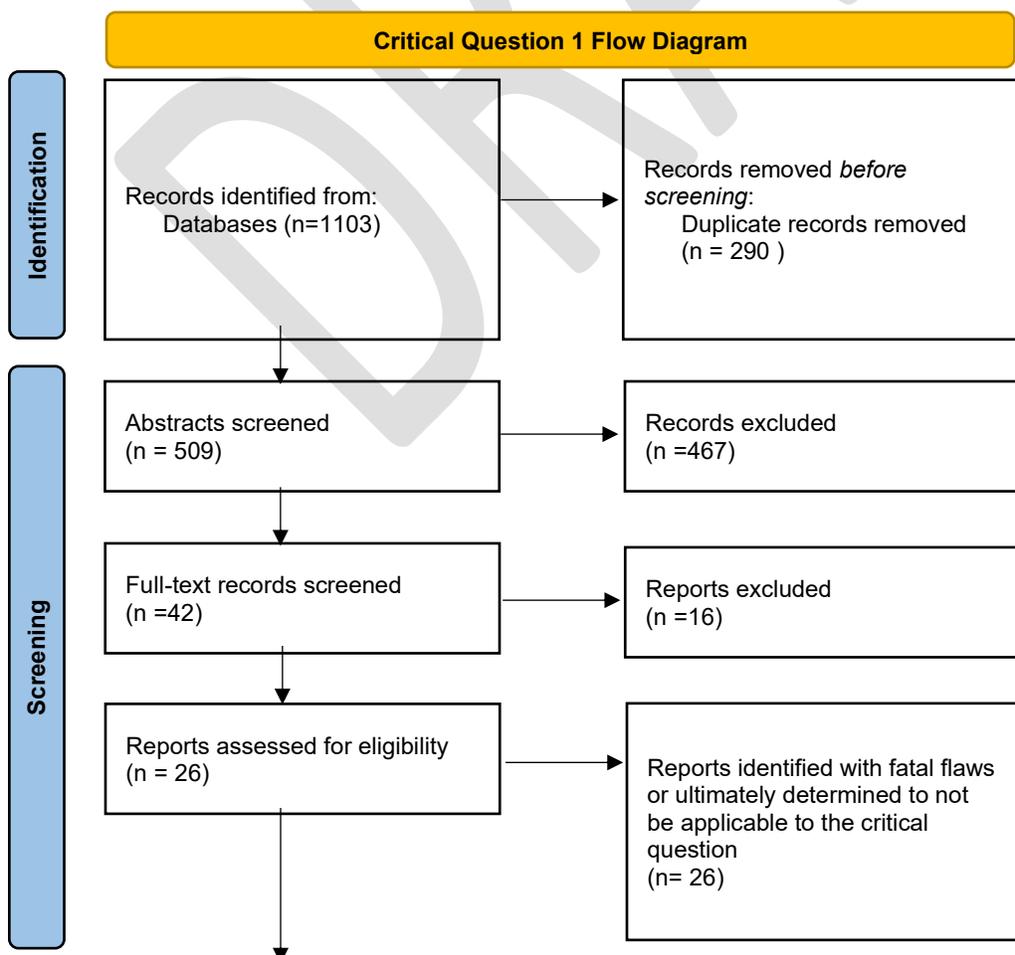
LR (+)	LR (-)	
1.0	1.0	Does not change pretest probability
1-5	0.5-1	Minimally changes pretest probability
10	0.1	May be diagnostic if the result is concordant with pretest probability
20	0.05	Usually diagnostic
100	0.01	Almost always diagnostic even in the setting of low or high pretest probability

647 *LR*, likelihood ratio.
648 *Number needed to treat (NNT): number of patients who need to be treated to achieve 1
649 additional good outcome; $NNT=1/\text{absolute risk reduction} \times 100$, where absolute risk reduction is the risk
650 difference between 2 event rates (ie, experimental and control groups).

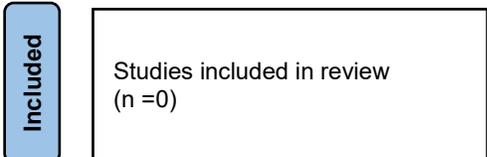
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Appendix D. Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) flow diagrams.⁷

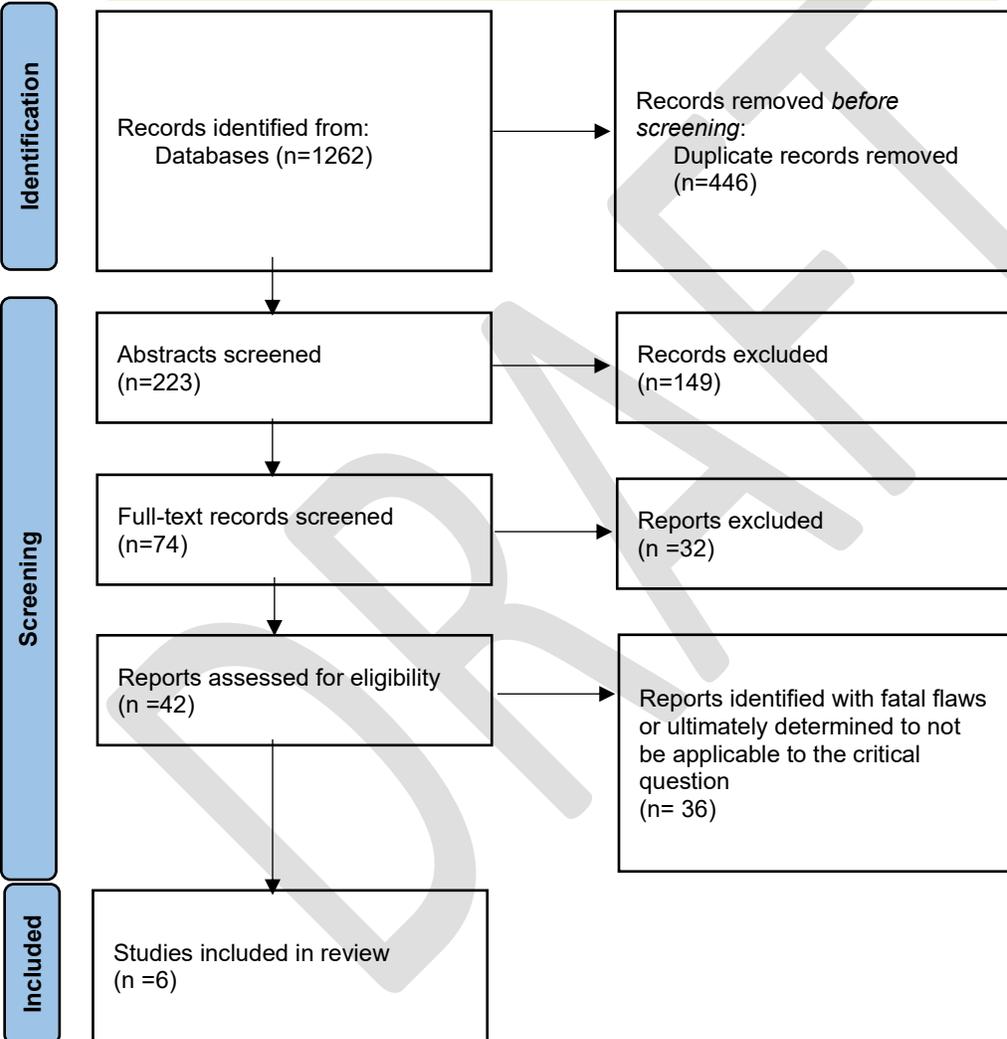
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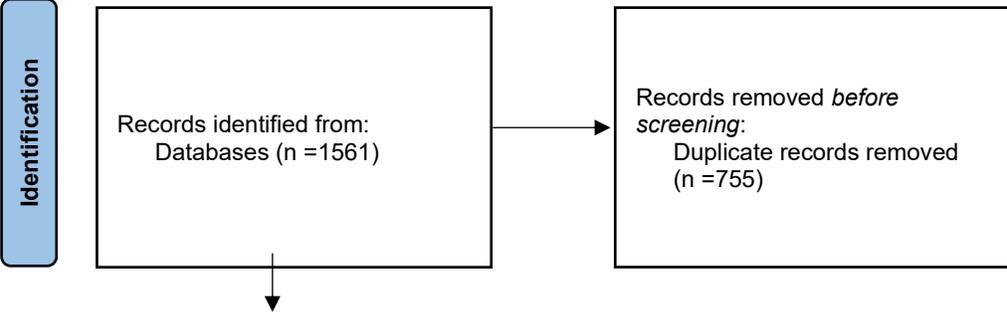
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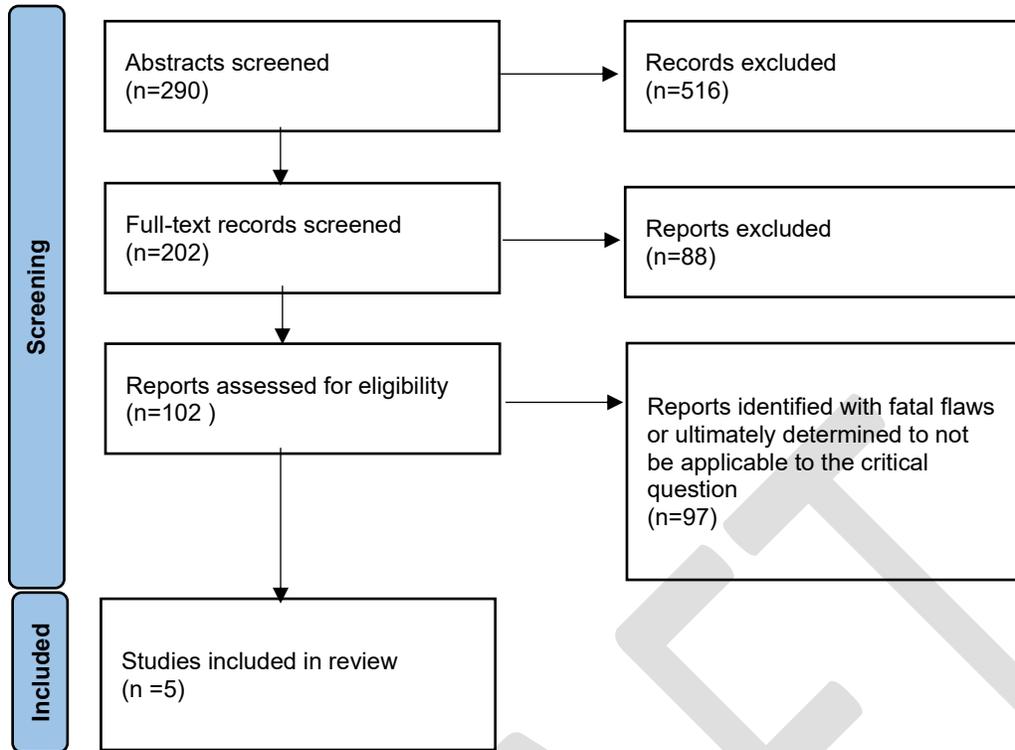
Critical Question 2 Flow Diagram



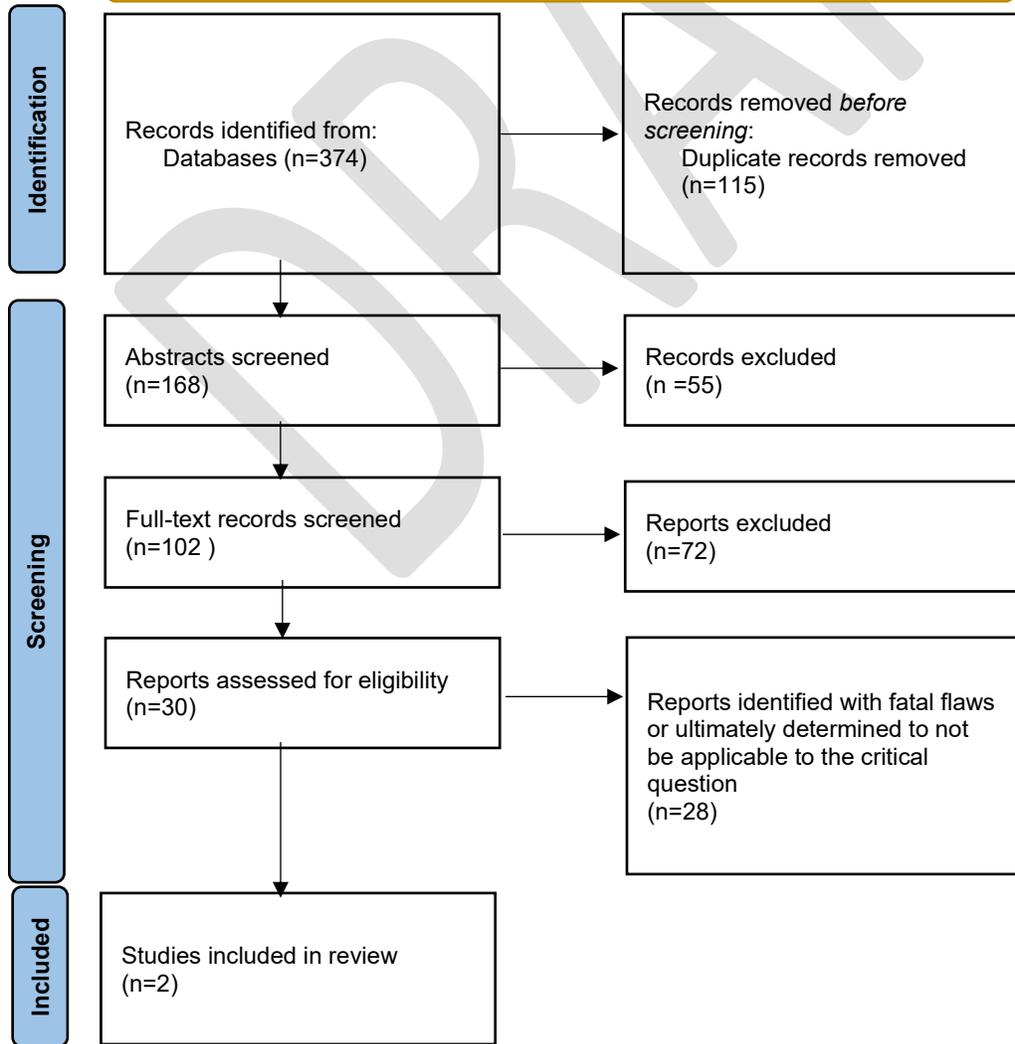
Critical Question 3 Flow Diagram



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Critical Question 4 Flow Diagram



DRAFT

Evidentiary Table.

Author & Year Published	Class of Evidence	Setting & Study Design	Methods & Outcome Measures	Results	Limitations & Comments
Ahmed et al ¹⁹ (2020)	III for Q 2	Retrospective review of NTDB Also - multivariate logistic regression model on clinical variables related to patient mortality - ROC curve was fit and area under the curve (AUC) with sensitivity analysis	Patients ground level from home, ≥65 years with normal (SBP) [Ref 90 –160 mm Hg], heart rate (HR) [Ref: 60-100,GCS 15 Other variables: sex, race and ethnicity, respiratory rate (RR), injury severity score (ISS), existing comorbidities including: smoking, chronic kidney disease (CKD), cerebrovascular accident/neurologic deficit (CVA), DM, HTN Objective: to determine incidence of in-hospital mortality and develop validated risk model to identify high risk	40,800 patients; 938 (2.3%) patients died in the hospital; 39,862 (97.7%) survived Significant difference based on: Age (median [IQR]) (82.0 [77.0, 86.0], vs. 80.0 [73.0, 85.0], P <.001) Sex (male: 49.8% vs. 30.6%, P <.001) ISS (median [IQR]: 9.0 [9.0, 14.0] vs 9.0 [4.0, 9.0], P <.001) Sensitivity analysis showed higher rate of comorbidities, including chronic kidney disease (CKD) and HTN), (7.5% vs. 2.8%, and 67.3% vs. 62.5%, all P <.05). Tested model for higher LOC (trauma center designation I & II) versus lower level and impact on mortality; none were found.	Brain injury-most frequent injury found (21.86% vs 21.48%) Higher brain hemorrhage and cervical spine injury in group that died Femoral neck or intertrochanteric fractures - no difference between groups Normal physiological measures at the scene do not eliminate the risk of in-hospital mortality in geriatric patients who fell from a ground level height at home 2.3% incidence of in-hospital mortality Older age, male sex, lower SBP, higher HR, and RR, ISS, and a history of CKD, DM, and HTN requiring medications were associated with a higher risk of in-hospital mortality

<p>Anantha et al³² (2021)</p>	<p>III for Q 2</p>	<p>Single-center retrospective Multivariable logistic regression analysis done to identify predictors of appropriate triage and variables independently associated with appropriate triage</p>	<p>Included all (ISS >15), ≥65 years (between 1/14 and 9/17). Undertriage: lack of TTA despite presence of severe injuries. Primary outcome: in-hospital mortality; secondary outcomes: mortality within 48 hours of admission and urgent hemorrhage control or shock (need for transfusion, or lactate being ≥ 4.0 mmol/L).</p>	<p>1039 patients, 628 (61%) did not undergo TTA. Undertriaged patients were older, had more comorbidities (stroke, dementia and bleeding disorders) In-hospital mortality was 5% vs 31% (P <.0001) 1% of undertriaged patients needed urgent hemorrhage control, vs to 6% appropriately triaged group (P < .0001) 1% undertriaged patients died within 48 hours vs 19% appropriately triaged group (P < .0001) Predictors of appropriate triage: GCS, heart rate, systolic blood pressure, lactic acid, ISS, shock, and absence of dementia, stroke, or alcoholism</p>	<p>Utility of ISS Retrospectively collected variable may not be useful for triage</p>
<p>Brown et al³¹ (2015)</p>	<p>III for Q 2</p>	<p>Retrospective review- Data extraction National trauma data bank</p>	<p>Used SBP of 110 mm Hg instead of 90 mm Hg to determine if geriatric pts (greater than 65) have mortality rates similar to those with lower BP Used physiologic (prehospital VS, GCS) and anatomic criteria (from ICD 9 codes) to determine placement into trauma center Trauma center need based on ISS greater than 15, ICU</p>	<p>438,828 geriatric pts Geriatric patients newly triaged with SBP 90 to 109 mm Hg odds of mortality same as those with SBP less than 90 mm Hg (Adjusted OR 1.03 ;95% CI) Also had similar discrimination and better goodness of fit using SBP <110 and those with SBP range (90 -109 mm Hg) had odds of mortality similar to those with SBP < 90 (Adjusted OR 1.02 95CI%) Using SBP of less than 110 mm Hg for trauma center improves undertriage in geriatric pts but not in adults. It improves sensitivity at the expense of specificity.</p>	<p>Majority of patients were adults, not geriatric; however still large number of geriatric patients. Conclusion that older people with BP of 109 - 90 have same mortality as those with Bp of 90 mm Hg suggests they warrant trauma center care</p>

			admission, urgent surgery and death as primary outcome. Mortality was secondary outcome	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Characteristics of the Geriatric and Adult Cohorts</th> <th>Geriatric Cohort n = 438,828</th> <th>Adult Cohort n = 1,117,116</th> <th><i>P</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age, median (IQR), y</td> <td>80 (73–86)</td> <td>37 (25–50)</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sex, male, %</td> <td>39</td> <td>71</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blunt injury, %</td> <td>99</td> <td>85</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prehospital time, median (IQR)</td> <td>48 (37–70)</td> <td>44 (32–67)</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prehospital SBP, median (IQR)</td> <td>144 (128–164)</td> <td>131 (118–146)</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prehospital SBP < 90 mm Hg, %</td> <td>2.7</td> <td>5.3</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prehospital SBP < 110 mm Hg, %</td> <td>9.0</td> <td>15.5</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISS, median (IQR)</td> <td>9 (4–10)</td> <td>6 (4–13)</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TCN, %</td> <td>32</td> <td>40</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mortality, %</td> <td>4.4</td> <td>3.8</td> <td><0.01</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Characteristics of the Geriatric and Adult Cohorts	Geriatric Cohort n = 438,828	Adult Cohort n = 1,117,116	<i>P</i>	Age, median (IQR), y	80 (73–86)	37 (25–50)	<0.01	Sex, male, %	39	71	<0.01	Blunt injury, %	99	85	<0.01	Prehospital time, median (IQR)	48 (37–70)	44 (32–67)	<0.01	Prehospital SBP, median (IQR)	144 (128–164)	131 (118–146)	<0.01	Prehospital SBP < 90 mm Hg, %	2.7	5.3	<0.01	Prehospital SBP < 110 mm Hg, %	9.0	15.5	<0.01	ISS, median (IQR)	9 (4–10)	6 (4–13)	<0.01	TCN, %	32	40	<0.01	Mortality, %	4.4	3.8	<0.01	
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Hung et al ³³ (2018)	III for Q2	10 year single center cohort study – retrospective review trauma registry in Hong Kong 2006 to 2015	Patients ≥55 years in trauma registry Separated ages 55-70, and >70years. Outcomes: death within 30 days; the need for surgery; or the need for ICU care	<p>2218 patients 30-day mortality was 7.5% for aged 55-70 years and 17.7% for above 70 years.</p> <p>The under-triage rate was 59% for age 55–70 years, and 69.1% for those aged above 70 years.</p>	<p>TTA is tiered. First tier: 2 EM physicians. Second tier: 2 general surgeons, an orthopaedic surgeon, and an ICU physician.</p> <p>Sensitivity of TTA criteria decreases as age increases- Justifies need</p>																																												

					for specific criteria for pts 70 years and older.
Ichwan et al ³⁰ (2015)	III for Q 2	Retrospective review of Ohio trauma registry	Used greater than 70 years of age to define geriatrics Triage criteria predicted need for trauma care	Geriatric triage criteria applied increased sensitivity but not specificity Mortality was similar between 2 groups 6.8 (adult) vs 9.3 (geriatric) Appeared geriatric patients were less severely injured (lower ISS, lower ICU care) but mortality rate 6.8 in geriatrics vs 9.3 in adults Increased geriatric trauma from 42 to 57% Sensitivity increased (61 to 93%) but specificity decreased (61 to 49%) have CI	Use of geriatric trauma criteria improved sensitivity of identifying need for trauma center
Lim et al ²⁹ (2020)	III for Q2	Retrospective cohort from 1/2016 to 12/2017	All patients > 18 years with injury severity score ≥ 16 Goal was to validate Korean Trauma Activation (KTAS) Score which has 4 levels and to analyze the prognostic performances of KTAS in 30-day	827 patients, 30-day mortality observed in 14.9% (n=123). Patients in the survivor group were younger and had higher values of both ISS and shock index. Survivors (n=704) Age (years) 59.1 (46.1–72.0) Non-survivors (n=123) Age (years) 69.1 (57.0–76.1)	Mortality of older adult was increased by 2.7 % for each year of life
Brown et al ⁶² (2012)	III for Q 3	multicenter prospective cohort study of adults, 7 institutions during a 8-year period (2003 to 2010)	Inclusion criteria: blunt trauma, presence of prehospital or emergency department hypotension (systolic blood pressure [SBP] <90 mm Hg) or an elevated base deficit (BD) (>6 mEq/L),	Of the 1,961 subjects in the cohort, 604 met MT inclusion criteria and constituted the study cohort. For the entire cohort, the 6-, 12-, and 24-hour mortality was 8.6%, 12.1%, and 13.1%, respectively. These subjects required a median of 16.3 U (IQR, 12.5±25.7) of PRBC, 8.3 U (4.3±13.4) of FFP, and 1.5 U (0.67±2.5) of PLT during the first 24 hours. Overall,	Despite similar degrees of early shock and coagulopathy, high FFP/PRBC and PLT/PRBC ratios are associated with a survival benefit as early as 6 hours and throughout the first 24

			<p>blood transfusion requirement within the first 12 hours, and any body region exclusive of the brain with an AIS of 2 or higher, allowing exclusion of patients with isolated traumatic brain injury. Patients younger than 18 years or older than 90 years and those with cervical spinal cord injury were also excluded from enrollment.</p> <p>High FFP/PRBC ($\geq 1:1.5$) and PLT/PRBC ($\geq 1:9$) ratios at 6, 12, and 24 hours were compared with low ratio groups.</p> <p>MOD was outcome</p>	<p>55.3% developed MOF, 48.2% developed NI, and 29.8% developed ARDS.</p> <p>A high FFP/PRBC ratio at 6 hours was associated with an independent mortality reduction at 6, 12, and 24 hours. Similarly, a high FFP/PRBC ratio at 12 hours was associated with an independent mortality reduction at 12 hours and 24 hours, and a high ratio at 24 hours was associated with a mortality benefit at 24 hours</p> <p>When FFP/PRBC ratio was analyzed as a time-dependent covariate, a higher ratio was associated with an independent reduction in mortality (Table 3). Similarly, when PLT/PRBC ratio was analyzed as a time-dependent covariate, a higher ratio was associated with an independent reduction in mort</p> <p>A high ratio of FFP/PRBC or PLT/PRBC at 6 hours was not independently associated with the risk of developing MOF, NI, or ARDS during admission. Similarly, a high FFP/ PRBC or PLT/PRBC ratio at 12 hours or 24 hours was not associated with any complication outcome studied ($p < 0.05$)</p>	<p>hours. Moreover, this held true at all time points at which ratio groups were determined. Most importantly, when FFP and PLT to PRBC ratios were analyzed as time-dependent variables, an increasing ratio was independently associated with a mortality reduction during the first 24 hours from injury.</p> <p>early resuscitation using high FFP/PRBC and PLT/PRBC ratios results in reduced mortality at 6 hours and throughout the first 24 hours from injury. When time-dependent effects of early component transfusion are accounted for, an increasing FFP/PRBC and PLT/PRBC ratio remains protective against early death from hemorrhage.</p>
Reynolds et al ⁶³ (2012)	III for Q3	multicenter prospective cohort study of	Inclusion criteria :blunt trauma, presence of prehospital or	Of the 1961 patients with blunt injury enrolled during the study period, 604 (31%) required 10 U or more of PRBCs in	this analysis verifies that hypothermia, nadir temperatures lower than

		<p>adults with blunt injury with hemorrhagic shock</p> <p>7 institutions during a 6-year period (December 2003 -January 2010)</p>	<p>emergency department systolic hypotension (<90 mm Hg) or an elevated base deficit (<6 mEq/L), blood transfusion requirement within the first 12 hours, and any region of the body excluding the brain with an Abbreviated Injury Scale score of 2 or higher, allowing the exclusion of patients with isolated traumatic brain injury. Patients younger than 16 years or older than 90 years and those with cervical spinal cord injury were also excluded from enrolment.</p> <p>For the current secondary data analysis, only patients requiring MT, defined as 10 U or more of packed red blood cells (PRBCs) in the first 24 hours after injury, were selected for analysis.</p> <p>Our primary outcomes for the analysis were in-hospital mortality,</p>	<p>the first 24 hours after injury and constituted the primary study population.</p> <p>Regression analysis revealed that temperature in an MT cohort (lowest 24-hour measurement as a continuous variable) was associated with a significantly greater independent risk of mortality after controlling for differences in demographics, injury severity, shock parameters, and transfusion and resuscitation confounders (OR, 0.82; 95% CI, 0.7Y0.9; p = 0.013). An interpretation of this OR suggests that a greater independent risk of mortality of more than 18% is associated with every decrease in the temperature level (-C) of a patient requiring MT in the first 24 hours after injury.</p> <p>When stratified by the period of enrollment, a temperature lower than 34-C remained a significant independent predictor of mortality with more than a twofold higher risk of mortality in the early period (OR, 2.24; 95% CI, 1.2Y4.1; p = 0.012,</p> <p>When stratified by the attainment of a high FFP/PRBC transfusion ratio (>1:2) in the first 24 hours versus a low FFP/ PRBC transfusion ratio (<1:2), a temperature lower than 34-C remained a significant independent predictor of mortality in the low FFP/PRBC ratio group with more than a twofold higher risk of mortality (OR,</p>	<p>34-C in the first 24 hours, is common and independently associated with a greater independent risk of mortality of more than 85% on patients requiring MT. These associations were most robust on patients who received a low FFP/PRBC transfusion ratio and were negated in the recent enrollment period (2007-2010) in which a more aggressive blood component resuscitation strategy has been previously documented. These data suggest that the clinical significance of hypothermia may be affected by the way a patient is resuscitated and may be as important as addressing the early coagulopathy in these patients</p>
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			MOF development, and nosocomial infection (NI).	2.2; 95% CI, 1.1±4.2; p = 0.021, In those patients requiring MT who received a high FFP/PRBC transfusion ratio, a temperature lower than 34-C was no longer a significant independent risk factor for mortality (OR, 1.8; 95% CI, 0.933.5; p = 0.100).	
Hagiwara et al ⁶⁴ (2016)	III for Q3	Retrospective observational study, Fifteen medical institutions participated from Japan, subgroup study from the Japanese Observational Study for Coagulation and Thrombolysis in Early Trauma (J-OCTET) January and December 2012	189 blunt trauma patients ≥ 18 years with ISS ≥16 requiring RBC transfusions within the first 24 h. cut-off values of the FFP/RBC ratio for outcome. cut-off values of the FFP/RBC ratio for outcome.	A total of 139 blunt trauma patients survived and were discharged alive, and 62 blunt trauma patients died FFP/RBC ratio at 6 h for survivor 1.0 [0.5, 1.3] vs 0.8[0.6,1.0], P = 0.066 FFP/RBC ratio at 24 h for survivor 1.0 [0.6, 1.3] vs 0.83[0.6,1.1], P = 0.177 Cox proportional hazards analysis of time to death FFP/RBC ratio ≥ 1 within 6 h 0.29 (0.14 – 0.62) P=0.001 FFP/RBC ratio ≥ 1 within 24 h 1.27 (0.59 – 2.74) P=0.540	Blunt trauma patients transfused with an FFP/RBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6 h after admission had a hazard ratio of about 0.4. In other words, their risk of death was reduced by about 60%. Transfusion of an FFP/RBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6 h was associated with the outcome of severe blunt trauma patients with ISS ≥ 16 and needed a transfusion within 24 h. The present results suggest that early aggressive administration of FFP may be crucial for resuscitation in patients with severe blunt trauma

				<p>PSM was performed to compare the two groups (FFP/RBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6 h and FFP/RBC ratio <1 within the first 6 h). The propensity score was created from the following 13 covariates: age, fluid therapy before admission, use of anticoagulant/antiplatelet drugs, ISS, use of tranexamic acid, HR, SBP, RR, WBC, Hb, PLT, CPK, and BE.</p> <p>Patients with an FFP/ RBC ratio ≥ 1 within the first 6h had significantly better survival, with an unadjusted hazard ratio of 0.44 and an adjusted hazard ratio of 0.29 (adjusted by all variables in Table 2).</p>	requiring blood transfusion
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Holcomb et al ⁶⁵ (2015)	III for Q3	Pragmatic, phase 3, multisite, randomized clinical trial at 12 level I trauma centers in North America August 2012 and December 2013	<p>Inclusion criteria: patient having at least 1 U of any blood component transfused prior to hospital arrival or within 1 hour of admission and prediction by an Assessment of Blood Consumption score of 2 or greater or by physician judgment of the need for a massive transfusion (defined as =10 U of RBCs within 24 hours)</p> <p>Exclusion: Received a lifesaving intervention from an outside hospital or health care facility, Had devastating injuries and expected to die within 1 hour of admission (eg, lethal traumatic brain injury), Directly admitted from a correctional facility, Required a thoracotomy prior to</p>	<p>No significant differences in mortality were detected at 24 hours (12.7% in the 1:1:1 group vs 17.0% in the 1:1:2 group; difference, -4.2% [95% CI, -9.6% to 1.1%]) or at 30 days (22.4% vs 26.1%, respectively; difference, -3.7% [95% CI, -10.2% to 2.7%]) range of intent-to-treat P values computed for all possible combinations of 30-day outcomes for the 4 patients with missing values did not change these results.</p> <p>Exsanguination, the predominant cause of death within the first 24 hours, was decreased in the 1:1:1 group (9.2%) vs the 1:1:2 group (14.6%) (difference, -5.4% [95% CI, -10.4% to -0.5%], P= .03); the median time to death due to exsanguination was 106 minutes (interquartile range [IQR], 54 to 198 minutes) and 96 minutes (IQR, 43 to 194 minutes), respectively. From 24 hours through 30 days, the numbers of additional all-cause deaths were similar (32 for the 1:1:1 group vs 31 for the 1:1:2 group). Over 30 days, deaths due to exsanguination occurred in 10.7% of patients in the 1:1:1 group vs 14.7% in the 1:1:2 group, whereas deaths due to traumatic brain injury were 8.1% vs</p>	<p>Transfusing patients based on an empirical ratio rather than guided solely by laboratory data (goal-directed) is considered controversial by some researchers. This trial was not designed to study this question. However, after the controlled, ratio-driven intervention was completed, clinicians treated patients based on local laboratory-guided standard-of-care practice. It appears that laboratory-directed catching up occurred in the 1:1:2 group with plasma and platelets approaching a cumulative ratio of 1:1:1. Other studies have shown similar results with laboratory-directed resuscitation. This catching up after the completion of randomized blood</p>

			<p>receiving randomized blood products in the emergency department, Younger than 15 years or weighed less than 50 kg if age unknown, Known pregnancy in the emergency department, Had burns covering greater than 20% total body surface area Suspected inhalation injury, Received greater than 5 consecutive minutes of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (with chest compressions) prior to arriving at the hospital or within the emergency department, Known do-not-resuscitate order prior to randomization, Enrolled in a concurrent, ongoing, interventional, randomized clinical trial, Activated the opt-out process for the PROPPR trial (usually by wearing a bracelet given out at a community consent presentation), More</p>	<p>10.3%, respectively. Additional causes of death were infrequent More patients achieved anatomic hemostasis in the 1:1:1 group (86.1% vs 78.1% in the 1:1:2 group, P= .006) with a median time of 105 minutes (IQR, 64 to 179 minutes) vs 100 minutes (IQR, 56 to 181 minutes), respectively (P= .44) in those who achieved anatomic hemostasis</p> <p>During the intervention, patients received median ratios of plasma to RBCs of 1.0 in the 1:1:1 group and 0.5 in the 1:1:2 group. The median ratios of platelets to RBCs during the intervention were 1.5 for the 1:1:1 group and 0.4 for the 1:1:2 group.</p>	<p>product transfusion may have decreased the ability to detect differences in mortality at 24 hours and 30 days or in the prespecified ancillary outcomes</p> <p>Limitations include power to detect differences smaller than the effect size we considered to be both clinically meaningful and affordable to study when we designed the trial.</p>
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			<p>than 3 U of red blood cells given before randomization</p> <p>primary outcome: 24 hour and 30 day mortality</p>		
Sperry et al ⁶⁶ (2008)	III for Q 3	<p>multicenter prospective cohort study evaluating clinical outcomes in blunt injured adults with hemorrhagic shock</p> <p>seven US institutions, during a 3.5-year period (November 2003–March 2007)</p>	<p>Included :blunt mechanism of injury, presence of prehospital or emergency department systolic hypotension (<90 mm Hg) or an elevated base deficit (≥ 6 meq/L), blood transfusion requirement within the first 12 hours, and any body region exclusive of the brain with an abbreviated injury score (AIS) ≥ 2, allowing exclusion of patients with isolated traumatic brain injury.</p> <p>Patients younger than 16 years or older than 90 years and those with cervical spinal cord injury were excluded. For the current study,</p>	<p>high F:P ratio , n=102, low F:P ratio , n=313.</p> <p>Of the 1,036 blunt injured patients enrolled during the study period, 415 patients had a blood transfusion requirement of ≥ 8 units within the initial 12 hours after injury, and constituted the study population. In this cohort, 39 patients received no FFP within the first 12 hours from injury (FFP: PRBC ratio = 0) despite having a ≥ 8 unit blood transfusion requirement. The overall mortality for the study population was 33.5%, whereas the overall complication rates for MOF, NI, and ARDS were 56.4%, 46.5%, and 29.6%, respectively.</p> <p>Those who received a high F:P ratio had higher ISS score and extremity AIS scores, higher APACHE II scores, lower GCS scores, and had lower nadir core body temperature measurements in the first 24 hours postinjury. They also had greater length of stay, ICU, and ventilator requirements; however, these comparisons would be inaccurate if an early mortality</p>	<p>patients who received an FFP:PRBC transfusion ratio $\geq 1:1.5$, relative to patients who received $<1:1.51$ FFP:PRBC ratio, had a significant lower risk of in-hospital mortality following massive transfusion after controlling for important confounders. This protective effect was most pertinent for mortality within the first 48 hours after injury and was independent of the blood transfusion requirement each individual patient received. Although crude mortality differences between the high F:P and low F:P groups did not reach statistical significance, the significant difference in early (24 hour)</p>

			<p>only patients who required ≥ 8 units of PRBCs within the first 12 hours from injury were included in the analysis.</p> <p>The FFP:PRBC variable, specifically the low F:P group, was then categorized as 1:2 (1:1.51–1:2.50, n = 105), 1:3 to 4 (1:2.51–1:4:50, n = 111), and $\leq 1:5$ ($\leq 1:4.51$, n = 97) groups ,</p> <p>MOF and mortality were outcomes</p>	<p>difference existed between the two groups. Hospital free days, ICU free days, and ventilator free days were compared with adjust for any such difference and confirmed that high F:P ratio patients had fewer hospital, ICU, and ventilator free days.</p> <p>Although the survival curves overall were not statistically different (log-rank: $p = 0.119$), the mortality rate at day 1 postinjury was significantly lower in the high F:P group (3.9% vs. 12.8%, $p < 0.012$). Although underpowered to be statistically different, when the FFP:PRBC variable was stratified into groups (high F:P, 1:2, 1:3–4, and $\leq 1:5$), similar findings with early separation of the survival curves are apparent at day 1 postinjury, with a dose response being demonstrated, based on the transfused FFP:PRBC ratio</p> <p>high F:P ratio, relative to patients who received a low F:P ratio, was independently associated with a 52% lower risk of mortality (HR 0.48, $p = 0.002$, 95% CI 0.3– 0.8), after controlling for important confounders.</p> <p>The hazard ratio for high F:P ratio patients remained significant with the protective effect for mortality being unaltered (HR 0.57, $p = 0.026$, 95% CI 0.35– 0.93).</p>	<p>mortality was likely responsible for this overall mortality risk reduction. As the FFP:PRBC ratio became smaller (less FFP relative to PRBCs) a dose-response relationship was demonstrated for mortality, with those patients who received minimal or no FFP having the highest early mortality.</p>
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				<p>However, a high F:P ratio was associated with almost a twofold higher risk of ARDS, after controlling for important confounders</p> <p>study is a secondary analysis of a prospective cohort study looking at the genomic and proteomic response after severe injury and hemorrhagic shock</p>	
Aso et al ⁶⁸ (2017)	III for Q 4	Retrospective Cohort of national Inpatient Database (Japan) 2010-2014.	<p>Trauma patients with uncontrolled hemorrhagic shock. Excluded penetrating thoracic trauma. > 15 years old. Propensity score adjusted</p> <p>Outcome: Mortality Secondary ventilator-free days, total amount of fluid within 1 day, total transfusion within 1</p>	<p>259 patients total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 191 REBOA, 68 Resuscitative Thoracotomy (RT) <p>Propensity score adjusted Cox Regression: Hazards ratio = 0.94 (95% CI 0.60, 1.48)</p> <p>No difference in secondary outcomes</p>	Retrospective Registry Study. But propensity score adjusted.

			day, total hospitalization costs.		
Joseph et al ⁶⁷ 2019	III for Q 4	Case Control US single center	Case-control Study using ACS TQIP	420 REBOA cases matched 280 controls 50/240 = 35.7% 53/180 = 18.9%	

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