



European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery (ESTES)

Association sans but lucratif (ASBL)

www.estesonline.org

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Trauma and Emergency Surgery

Dear colleagues and friends,

Guidelines are essential for comparable treatment of patients throughout a country or throughout the world. A guideline should define particular diagnostic and treatment steps and should be based on the actual literature and current clinical practice. The recommendations should not be mandatory, but an evidence-based recommendation for most situations. There are different levels of guidelines, based on pure recommendation, or extensive literature research and at best being approved by all medical disciplines involved in the treatment process.

Guidelines can be published by various organizations. In medicine, associations or organizations, following defined rules for the establishment, mostly generate guidelines. Besides many national guidelines, ESTES has started to publish its own guidelines:

- ESTES guidelines: acute mesenteric ischaemia [1]
- Recommendations on hip fractures [2]

The sections of ESTES aim for the development of further guidelines. Since this is an extensive process involving many surgeons for numerous guidelines in Europe, the evolution from a national guideline might be one option. Another option might be the confirmation of a national guideline with remarks for application in other countries in Europe. This has to be discussed in ESTES.

In order to move forward in this direction, the German Trauma Society, one of the largest of the 30 European member Societies of ESTES, has updated its "Clinical Practice Guideline on the Treatment of the Severely Injured", initially published in 2012 [3]. This guideline was now further extended and discussed, together with all medical societies involved. The update of the S3 polytrauma guideline was published in German in fall 2016 with the highest level of recommendation (S3). The aim of the guideline is to provide the latest evidence on the management of the severely injured patient and to improve outcome after severe trauma. This guideline is evidence-based and approved by the representatives of all participating medical societies and has been now translated into English. Within the next few weeks, the *update 2018* of this guideline will be published in the *European Journal for Trauma and Emergency Surgery* in order to present it to the international trauma care community [4].

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The new guideline provides 264 key recommendations for the management of the severely injured patient in three different phases: prehospital management (66 key recommendations), emergency room management (102 key recommendations), and early operative management (96 key recommendations).

The English version of the guideline will be available as “free access” to all those interested in the management of the severely injured in April 2018 [4]. Members of ESTES will be informed by an alert mail, once the guideline can be downloaded. Thus, I encourage you to read and discuss this guideline within the ESTES sections and decide whether the guideline needs further refinement for Europe.

I hope you will enjoy the *polytrauma* guideline.

With best regards,
Ingo Marzi
Editor-in-Chief

References

1. Tilsed JVT, Casamassima A, Kurihara H, Mariani D, Martinez I, Pereira J, et al. (2016) ESTES guidelines: acute mesenteric ischaemia. 8th ed. Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg 42:253–270
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3. AWMF (2012) S3 – Guideline on treatment of patients with severe and multiple injuries pp 1–437.
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<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00068-018-0922-y>

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Sincerely,

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Announcements

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Graz, Austria

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ECTES 2018

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May 6–8, 2018

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Helsinki, Finland

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September 17–18, 2018

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Salzburg, Austria

October 4–6, 2018

DKOU 2018

Berlin, Germany

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