

When to perform emergency laparotomy in polytrauma?

Tips & Tricks from ESTES Education in collaboration with the Polytrauma section

The Problem

Emergency laparotomy has a substantial impact on the polytrauma patients

The Challenge

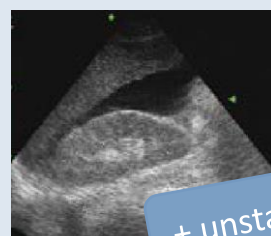
Indications for emergency laparotomy in the trauma bay are multifactorial

The Evidence

Urgent Emergency laparotomy is indicated in the following situation

- Unstable patient with evidence of free fluid/air in the abdominal cavity
- Evisceration / gun shot wounds traversing the abdominal cavity
- Retained foreign bodies (e.g. retained knife)
- Unstable patient with peritonitis
- Rectal/Vaginal bleeding

Tips & Tricks



+ unstable

Urgent emergency laparotomy warranted

Conclusion

Urgent emergency laparotomy depends on the injury and the physiologic presentation of the polytrauma patient