

Geleitwort

It is both a pleasure and an honor to write this foreword for this outstanding textbook. The work represents the first of its kind to focus solely on the initial management of critically injured patients during the first 24 hours; that crucial period of injury evolution when precise decision-making and intervention are the difference between life and death. Most believe that if the management of seriously injured patients is properly executed during this initial phase of care that both mortality and longer-term morbidity are significantly diminished. How fitting then that a definitive work like this be created to outline the critical steps in management to achieve the best possible outcomes in what are often desperate circumstances. A group of highly accomplished authors under the watchful eye of competent editors, all of whom are truly experts in the field have done just that. I am sure that the readership will find this reference useful in its comprehensive nature and handy in its succinct approach. Moreover, it is excellently written and beautifully illustrated.

The text is pragmatic in its structure and composition with four sections that start with the importance of proper preparation of the shock trauma resuscitation area to assure a smooth transition and interface between the discovery, triage and transport of the prehospital phase to definitive care facilities where activation protocols are essential for expeditious response. Both the physical construct of the resuscitation room and the choreography of the trauma team must be properly prepared to achieve optimal outcomes. In the second section, aptly entitled, "Schockraumversorgung nach ABCDE", critical steps in shock resuscitation, management of hemorrhage control in specific anatomic areas and discussion of special populations such as the very young, the old and pregnant patients are covered in detail. The work continues by articulating necessary management for a range of commonly injured structures such as the vascular system, spine, lower extremity, soft tissue and burns – all pertinent of everyday management in the first 24 hours. The concluding section discusses logical next steps, including key medicolegal considerations. While extremely comprehensive in nature, the editors have carefully chosen the most relevant areas for coverage to more than adequately inform and educate the reader without overwhelming them with irrelevant data. The text strikes just the right balance.

Not to be overlooked, the text is both easy to read in the beauty and simplicity of its visually pleasing layout and, at the same time, provides a valuable reference in the comprehensive nature of the bibliography in each section. Each chapter contains notable points – pitfalls – practical tips – critical connections, highlighted for quick review and where applicable summary tables for more in-depth integration of the material. The references are up to date, include textbook, internet and peer review citations and are thorough and relevant in their scope. Finally, the illustrations are pertinent and useful to the manuscript providing additional interest and understanding to the reader.

The field of injury care has been rapidly evolving over the last 30 years thrust ahead by lessons learned in the laboratory, from the evolutions of civilian trauma systems and centers and during the ravages of war. I congratulate the editors and the authors for capturing salient information pertinent to the first 24 hours of care culminating in this important contribution to the field. I commend them on their effort and level of achievement in producing this textbook which will no doubt be useful to students, residents, fellows and care providers alike from a broad base of disciplines. I can say without a doubt, that patients cared for by those who choose to study this content and master the lessons herein will, as a result, benefit greatly from the expertise they gain.

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This ambitious textbook on “Schwerverletztenversorgung” is a significant addition to the body of published work on trauma. The editors are amongst the most experienced trauma surgeons in Europe and have pioneered structured trauma education in Germany. This is evident by their wise selection of outstanding contributors. The book is divided into 4 practical sections and 34 chapters, which cover all aspects of Emergency Management of Severe Trauma. It is easy to read and provides clear and practical guidance on prehospital and resuscitation room organisation and care, as well as the operative management of life threatening/urgent injuries in neck, chest, vascular, neurosurgical and orthopaedic trauma. It is supported by numerous top quality photographs, illustrations and x-rays. This book should accompany all doctors, who find themselves facing severe trauma, irrespective of their role in the trauma management algorithm, their specialty or seniority. It will provide comfort and confidence to the health practitioner who is facing major trauma and whose decisions must be made swiftly, making the difference between life and death, good functional outcome and permanent disability. This textbook bridges a vacuum within the trauma literature and I believe it should be considered to be translated into other languages, so that it benefits the broader, international, medical audience.

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