



TraumaBank: The South African National Trauma Registry

A Trauma Registry is simply a means of collecting and storing data relating to the type and management of trauma patients being seen in an institution. Internationally Trauma Registries are common practice, and would be considered mandatory for any Trauma Centre (or any practice requiring accurate and accessible records). "out there" there is a great deal of resistance to the impact that trauma has on all aspects of our lives. The most effective research and political lobbying tool created is accurate data.

South Africa is unique in terms of the quantity and severity of trauma seen. It is high time that we were able to analyse, present and compare our data in a scientific manner.

TraumaBank is a locally developed program designed to meet our needs. It is unique in that the software automatically calculates both the Injury Severity Score (ISS) and New Injury Severity Score (NISS) and predicted PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL based on both these scores, at the stage when the first vitals were taken on the scene as well as on arrival in the Emergency Unit. It also incorporates an ICU module which can be used to score any ICU admission using the SAPSII, KES, APACHE II and SOFA scoring systems. The importance of being able to measure and benchmark the patient's progress against multiple international scoring systems with such ease is an invaluable quality assurance tool.

The concept of being able to build up National statistics and trends based on information (which can be sent anonymously from participating centres) is an exciting one. This will facilitate injury surveillance, and allow for evidence-based decision making on a National level by TSSA with regards to policy making, planning and development of injury prevention and control strategies, as well as being able to lobby on the political stage, with hard data backup for the first time.

TraumaBank has been extensively tested at the Johannesburg Hospital (over 3400 patients logged during the past 18 months) as well as Milpark, Union, J F Jooste and Union (Swartklip).

With the imminent grading and verification of the delivery of Trauma Care at Trauma and Emergency Departments and Hospitals, the grading will depend to a significant extent on the ability to collect credible data on the patients treated. No Centre wishing to register as a site for research including drug trials would be considered without a working database of its patients.

Upon installation an agreement will be signed guaranteeing that your data will never be viewed or shared with any party whatsoever without your express written approval. As mentioned previously downloads to the TSSA National Database will be done anonymously.

Please contact us should you require further information, or wish to become part of this exciting project.

Best wishes,

Ken Boffard
President: Trauma Society of South Africa