Audit of trauma management in Scotland 2017

Reporting on 2016

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About this Release

This is the fourth report by the Scottish Trauma Audit Group (STAG) since 2011, and is published by Information Services Division (ISD). The report provides a comprehensive summary of type and severity of trauma, patient journey and outcome for Scotland, including information on Quality Indicator (QI) compliance presented at hospital level. A pilot of paediatric data collection at the Royal Hospital for Children Glasgow (RHC) gives an additional snapshot of information for patients aged 0-16 years.

Main Points

- A total of 18 out of 30 hospitals with an Emergency Department, submitted data to STAG in 2016, reporting on 3442 patients, of which 23% (n= 779) are classified as having major trauma. These 18 hospitals treat over 80% of all emergency admissions.

- There has been an increase in the median age of trauma patients, rising from 53 years in 2011 to 57 years in 2016 in line with the ageing population.

- Men make up the majority of major trauma patients (72%) compared to women (28%). The most common cause for men suffering major trauma is being in moving vehicle accidents, whilst for women, falls less than or equal to two metres were most common.

- 25% of major trauma patients are transferred to another hospital, primarily for neurosurgical care.

- 23% of patients suffering major trauma died in hospital in 2016, with the majority of these patients (61%) dying within the first two days.

- The Royal Hospital for Children (Glasgow) treated 68 patients from June 2016 to May 2017 who met the STAG inclusion criteria and 31% were classified as having major trauma.

- There is wide variation in achieving STAG QIs in 2016 at hospital level, with the largest variation occurring for major trauma patients having a consultant review within one hour (13-86%). Hospitals with the lowest compliance in this QI treat small numbers of patients with major trauma. The introduction in 2018 of the Scottish Trauma Network will change the pathway for these patients, ensuring they are quickly delivered to definitive care from a specialist multi-disciplinary team.
Summary of QI compliance in Scotland (2013-2016)

Background

STAG is within the Scottish Healthcare Audits programme in ISD. STAG’s aim is to improve the quality of care, patient experience and outcomes through measuring compliance against standards of care (QIs) to support local quality improvement. All patients should meet the QI, unless there is a clinical reason for exclusion. Failure to meet the QI should be examined locally.

STAG will implement new Key Performance Indicators in November 2017 to help support the implementation and ongoing improvement of the Scottish Trauma Network.

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Further information

The full report can be found on the audit website www.stag.scot.nhs.uk. The next update for this publication will be October 2018.