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Oral Presentation

Road Traffic Accidents Lead to Different Patterns of Injuries Depending on Impact, Age and Premedical Condition - Specific Attention Must be Provided by Multi-Disciplinary Trauma-Teams

Christopher Spering*

Department of Orthopedic Trauma Surgery, Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery of the University Hospital of Goettingen, Goettingen, Germany.

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Abstract

The approximate number of road traffic accidents that occur in Germany every year is 4.8 million. In 15-25% of these accidents patients die on scene, while about 35,000 severely injured patients are admitted to the resuscitation units of trauma centers in Germany, out of which about 10% do not survive. To continuously observe and improve their treatment and management, polytraumatized patients are documented in the trauma registry of the German Society for Trauma Surgery. A retrospective study of patients differing as to impact, age and premedical condition shows that special attention is needed depending on their actual pattern of injuries. While elderly trauma patients are regularly exposed to neurotrauma increased by their level of activity in an aging society, trauma in children usually involves passive participants with little chance of escape. Both need to be treated in specialized trauma centers. While healthcare professionals are working hard to control the quality of trauma management and communication, a multi-disciplinary approach to specific programs in accident prevention needs to include all professionals dealing with road safety and education. Programs on accident prevention such as Preventing Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y.) are just as important as certified trauma courses. A recent study on an evaluation of the P.A.R.T.Y.-program supports its importance and efficiency in changing behavior of young drivers.

Keywords: Road Traffic, Injuries, Trauma, Education.

***Corresponding Author:** Christopher Spering

E-mail: christopher.spering@med.uni-goettingen.de