

# Trauma

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Efficient and effective teamwork between clinicians is vital in providing the best care possible in the crucial first minutes after a severely injured patient arrives in hospital. Modern trauma care is a multidisciplinary affair and trauma teams receiving injured patients in the ED often consist of multiple clinical staff from a range of specialties.

Bringing diverse skillsets and specialist knowledge to the resuscitation room has huge advantages in optimising patient care but brings with it a unique set of challenges. Managing a large group of clinicians in a high-pressure environment, many of whom may be unfamiliar with their physical surroundings and the colleagues whose company they are thrust into can be challenging.

Having robust systems, structure and training can undoubtedly smooth the way to a high functioning trauma team but on the day a lot will still depend on the trauma team leader's ability to bring team members together and meld their individual skills and perspectives into a coherent whole.

Being a trauma team leader isn't necessarily about having the most expert medical knowledge in the room. Communication and interpersonal skills are at least as important if a collection of individuals is going to be brought together effectively.

Decisions need to be made quickly but it won't surprise anyone to learn clinicians don't always agree on the best course of action and sometimes there is even the odd large ego to be managed! The potential for chaos is never far away and I will try and share some insights and perspectives into how to herd the cats in the right direction when the pressure is on.

