“Fractured Care” - An Evaluation of Rib Fracture Management in a New Major Trauma Centre

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Our Rib Fracture Problem at ARI?

→ New Major Trauma Centre Commissioned October 2018
→ No agreed local clinical pathway for managing rib fractures despite, mortality rates = 12% and pulmonary complication rates = 35%

AIMS - Evaluate the management of patients presenting with rib fractures at ARI assessing
→ Initial analgesia matched to rib fracture scores (Figure 1)
→ Use of regional techniques
→ Respiratory deterioration requiring ventilatory support

Methods and Results

Prospective collection of patients with rib fractures between November 2018 to February 2019
→ 29 patients presented to A&E
→ 20 admitted to hospital

Figure 1 – Rib Fracture Algorithm

Conclusions

→ Notable variability on the acute analgesic management of patients with rib fractures in NHS Grampian
→ Clinical need to highlight this “at risk group of patients, prior to respiratory deterioration

References
2. Ziegler DW, Agarwal NN: The morbidity and mortality of rib fractures; J Trauma. Dec 1994; 37(6) pp 975-9