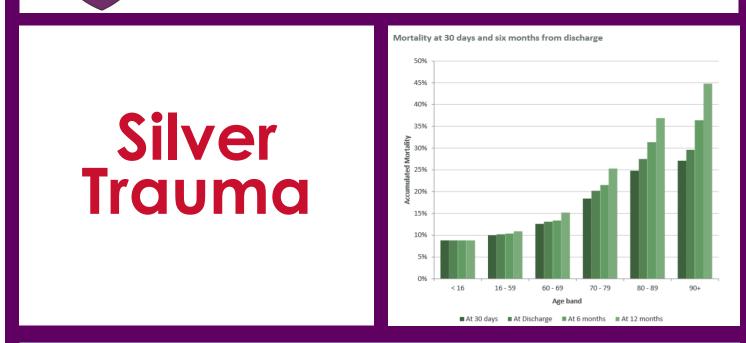
The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

Safety Alert

September 2019



Major Trauma in Older People (ISS > 15)

- Fall <2m is commonest mechanism of injury e.g. a fall from standing (TARN 2017)
- Poor pre-hospital or ED identification of injuries as major trauma = less specialist care
- Higher mortality and morbidity than younger patients search for more than one injury
- Traumatic brain and chest injuries are the most common cause of death
- Traumatic brain injury present with a higher GCS than younger patients, those who survive often do well
- A systolic BP < 110mmHg gives same mortality as systolic < 90mmHg in a younger person

Points to remember:

- Early trauma scanning
- Anticoagulation reversal
- Pain relief and hydration (helps prevent delirium)
- Know your local pathways for referral to specialist services
- Patient's and relative's wishes need to be considered

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