

Damage Control Management in the Polytrauma Patient

Second Edition

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Damage Control Resuscitation

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6.1 Introduction

Damage control resuscitation (DCR) for trauma, initially described to address the entire lethal triad immediately upon admission to a combat hospital before damage control surgery (DCS) [1], is now accepted as part of an integrated approach DCR-DCS from point of wounding to definitive treatment [2]. Therefore, DCR can be

divided in two steps: while bleeding is ongoing and once bleeding has been stopped.

6.1.1 Physiological Bleeding Control

When bleeding occurs, the baroreceptors located in the aortic arch and carotid sinus detect the drop in arterial pressure. This information is transmitted to the brain stem, which immediately increases sympathetic tone [3]. This increased sympathetic tone causes tachycardia (oxygen transportation is ensured by less blood that circulates faster) and vasoconstriction which favours the blood circulation of the heart and brain at the expense of all other organs and tissues (gut, kidney, muscle and skin). Vasoconstriction at the bleeding site decreases bleeding flow and allows platelets and the activated coagulation factors to seal the leak by a vascular clot [4] (Fig. 6.1). Fibrinolysis regulates coagulation [5] and prevents vascular occlusion. In favourable cases, the bleeding has stopped or slowed. In unfavourable cases, because the vascular breach is too large or the bleeding sites are multiple, the trauma patient is in a situation where the coagulation factors have been consumed, fibrinolysis is activated [6], a large volume of blood has been lost, tachycardia and vasoconstriction are not sufficient to compensate for blood loss and therefore the

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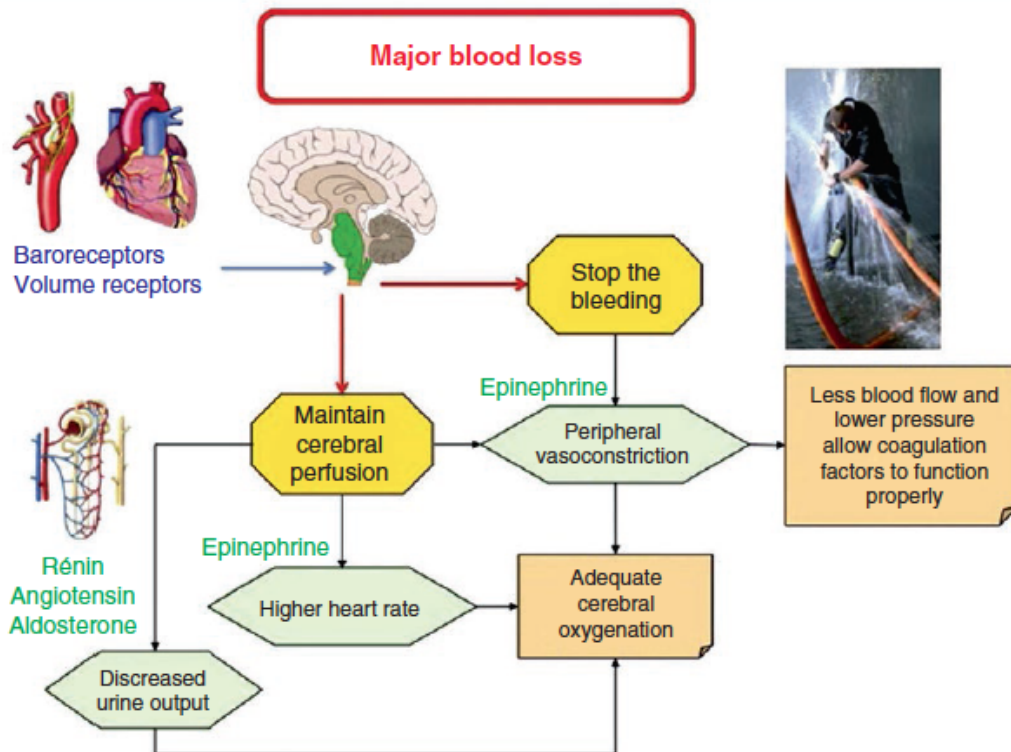


Fig. 6.1 Simplified pathophysiology of bleeding. Bleeding induces hypovolaemia and low blood pressure that trigger volume and baroreceptors which, in turn, transmit the information to the central nervous system [3]. This results in increased sympathetic vascular tone with the double role of maintaining cerebral perfusion and stopping the bleeding. Vasoconstriction in the entire organism (except the heart and brain) deviates the blood supply to the brain, while decreasing blood loss by decreasing the flow and pressure at the level of the vascular injury leaves time for clot formation [4]. Increased heart rate allows partial compensation of the loss of oxygen transportation by increasing the rapidity of red blood cell circulation. At the same time, urine output is decreased by activation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone complex with the goal of compensating hypovolemia (E. Voiglio et al. *J Visc Surg.* 2016;153,13–24)

oxygen carrying capacity continues to decrease while the bleeding goes on.

6.1.2 The Lethal Triad: Hypothermia, Acidosis and Coagulopathy

Blood loss causes hypothermia, as the blood plays, among others, the role of a heat transfer liquid. In the cells of a bleeding trauma patient, because of oxygen deficiency, glycolysis stops at the step of pyruvate, which, instead of being consumed by the Krebs cycle, feeds lactate production [7]. Therefore bleeding trauma patient

develops lactic acidosis. Coagulation proteins are enzymes that function at 37 °C and pH greater than 7.2. Under hypothermic and acidotic conditions, the coagulation factors have decreased activity [8]. Being the blood hypocoagulable, the bleeding continues later exacerbating hypothermia and acidosis which themselves exacerbate coagulopathy: the haemorrhagic vicious circle [9] is constituted which leads to the death of the trauma patient by exsanguination (Fig. 6.2).

While it is very difficult to take out a trauma patient from this vicious circle, it is very easy to drive him there. It is sufficient to delay the time of haemostasis by a superfluous ‘equipment’ and unnecessary imaging investigations (further

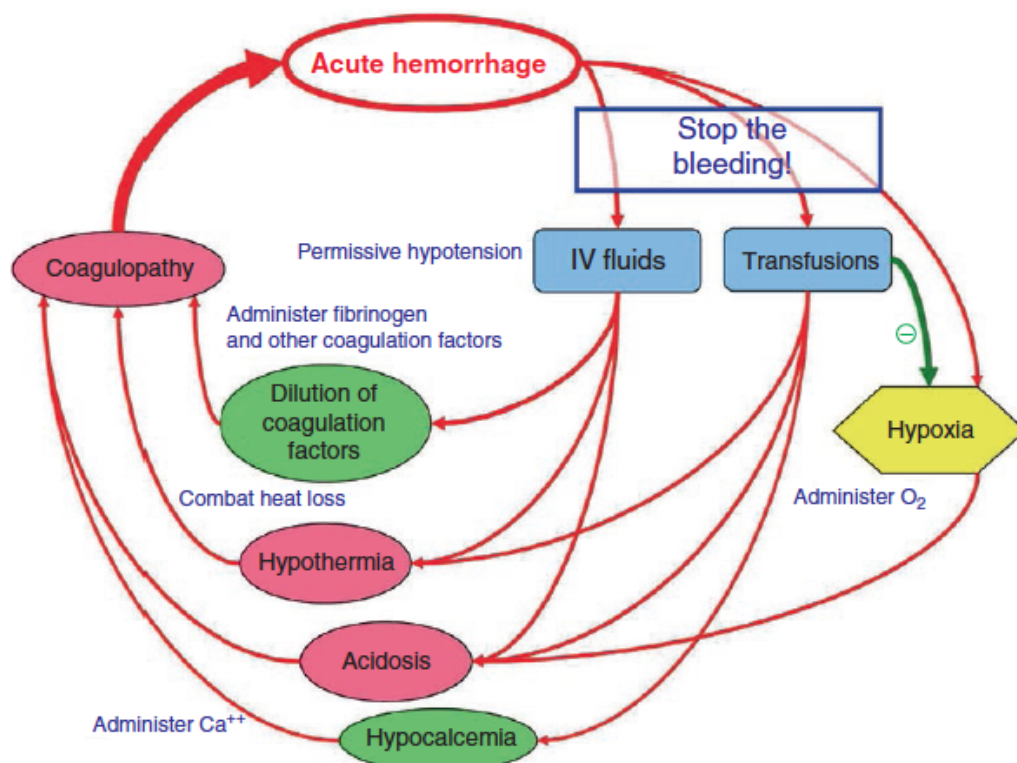


Fig. 6.2 Simplified bloody vicious circle. Acute bleeding triggers cellular hypoxia resulting in metabolic acidosis (lactic acid) [7] and hypothermia (decreased metabolism, loss of heat transport by hypovolaemia). Hypothermia and acidosis lead to coagulopathy because the coagulation factors are enzymes that do not work efficiently below 34 °C and or pH <7.25 [8]. Coagulopathy exacerbates bleeding. Crystalloid volume resuscitation results in dilution of the coagulation factors, cooling and induction of acidosis by dilution and hyperchloraemia. Transfusions add to the deleterious effect of perfusions via the citrate anticoagulants

added to PRBC (acidosis and hypocalcaemia) [10]; conversely, transfusions can decrease cell hypoxia by improving oxygen transportation. The only way to interrupt the vicious circle is to stop the bleeding [11]. Administration of oxygen, and limiting IV fluid volume, the strategy of permissive hypotension, combating hypothermia, early transfusion of packed red cells, correction of coagulation disorders by supplying the necessary factors and correction of hypocalcaemia can slow down the vicious circle and buy the time necessary to obtain haemostasis (E. Voiglio et al. *J Visc Surg.* 2016;153,13-24)

67	haemorrhage), to dilute his/her blood with perfusions (hypothermia, dilution acidosis, anaemia, dilution of coagulation factors, hypocoagulability induced by hydroxyethyl starch [12]) and to rely on a misleading 'haemodynamic stability' artificially achieved by administration of vasopressors (lactic acidosis from visceral and peripheral ischaemia). It has been demonstrated for patients with severe injury of the abdomen and hypotensive at admission that the probability of death increases by 1% every 3 min spent in the shock room [13]. Medico-surgical procrastination is a great provider of haemorrhagic vicious circle.	6.2	Damage Control Resuscitation Before Bleeding Is Stopped	81 82 83
74		6.2.1	Initial Assessment: Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Protocol	84 85 86
75			<i>The treatment of bleeding is to stop the bleeding [11]. Damage control resuscitation is a management strategy of which goal is to enable survival of the trauma patient until bleeding is controlled while keeping the risk of iatrogenicity to a minimum. Damage con-</i>	87 88 89 90 91 92

93 *trol resuscitation* is part of ATLS ABCDE pro-
94 tocol [14] that ensures oxygenation of the
95 cells:

- 96 • Airway: airway is most often secured by
97 orotracheal intubation. When orotracheal
98 intubation is impossible and airway has to be
99 secured, cricothyroidotomy is a DC proce-
100 dure [15]. C-spine is protected by a cervical
101 collar.
- 102 • Breathing: trauma patient is given 100% O₂.
103 The SaO₂ is monitored. If a pleural effusion
104 (pneumo- and/or haemothorax) is present,
105 a chest tube is placed. A sucking
106 thoracic wound is treated by a vented chest
107 seal [16].
- 108 • Circulation: control of bleeding is initially
109 achieved, depending on situations, by direct
110 pressure eventually enhanced by haemo-
111 static dressings [17], by tourniquet place-
112 ment [18] or by placement of a pelvic sling
113 [19]. ECG and blood pressure are monitored
114 non-invasively. Two large-bore intravenous
115 lines or one intraosseous line is placed.
116 Crystalloid perfusion is started. In case of
117 haemorrhagic shock, permissive hypoten-
118 sion and transfusion of red blood cell unit
119 (RBC) (O Rh- then type specific) and early
120 plasma administration are recommended
121 [14]. A FAST echography is performed to
122 look for intraperitoneal bleeding and cardiac
123 tamponade [20].
- 124 • Disability: GCS score is calculated, pupillary
125 reactivity and symmetry are checked, and
126 focal neurological deficits are searched.
- 127 • Exposure: patient's dresses are removed, and
128 a logroll is performed to allow complete
129 examination including the back. Body tem-
130 perature is monitored.

131 Whenever a patient presents haemorrhagic
132 shock by an active bleeding that cannot be con-
133 trolled by external manoeuvres, *damage con-*
134 *trol* resuscitation is indicated as long as
135 haemostasis has not been achieved most often
136 by surgery, sometimes by interventional
137 radiology.

6.2.2 Targeted Blood Pressure
with Permissive Hypotension
and Restrictive Fluid
Administration

Traditional fluid resuscitation in the polytrauma
patient involved rapid infusion of large volumes
of clear fluids in an attempt to rapidly restore cir-
culating blood volume and blood pressure. It has
become apparent that this approach has several
potentially detrimental consequences. The prem-
ise of permissive hypotension is to keep the
blood pressure low enough to avoid exacerbat-
ing haemorrhage by hydrostatic clot disruption
while maintaining adequate end-organ perfusion
[21]. The concept of damage control resuscita-
tion aims to achieve a lower than normal blood
pressure, also called 'permissive hypotension',
and thereby avoid the adverse effects of early
aggressive resuscitation using high doses of flu-
ids while there is a potential risk of tissue hypo-
perfusion during short periods [22]. Permissive
hypotension and restrictive fluid administration
are therefore reciprocal components of this
approach; initial fluid administration is delayed
or minimized, and less aggressive resuscitative
end points are used. A targeted systolic blood
pressure (SBP) of 80–90 mmHg is recommended
until major bleeding has been stopped in the ini-
tial phase following trauma without brain injury
[23]. In patients with severe traumatic brain
injury (GCS ≤8), maintenance of a mean arterial
pressure ≥80 mmHg is recommended [23]. This
approximately equates to aiming for the restora-
tion of a palpable radial pulse. A restrictive fluid
administration strategy is recommended to
achieve target blood pressure until bleeding can
be controlled [23]. Such an approach decreases
both the severity and incidence of dilutional
coagulopathy and as such complements a strat-
egy of haemostatic resuscitation. Second, this
reduces fluctuations in, and elevation of, systolic
blood pressure which may disrupt the premature
blood clot forming in areas of injury causing fur-
ther bleeding. Therefore, it would appear that
restricting initial IV fluid administration in the
severely injured should have advantages, and the

infusion of large volumes of crystalloid is no longer appropriate. In specific situations, permissive hypotension may also be of benefit, particularly in patients with severe haemorrhage from an arterial source. Great caution should be taken in those with concomitant head injury, and further work is required to clearly delineate which patients might benefit the most from this approach [24].

6.2.3 Vasopressor Agents

Vasopressors may be required transiently to sustain life and maintain tissue perfusion in the presence of life-threatening hypotension, even when fluid expansion is in progress and hypovolaemia has not yet been corrected [23]. If used, it is essential to respect the recommended objectives for SBP (80–90 mmHg) in patients without traumatic brain injury [23]. Norepinephrine is the agent of choice to restore and maintain target arterial pressure in haemorrhagic shock. Although it has some β -adrenergic effects, it acts predominantly as a vasoconstrictor. Arterial α -adrenergic stimulation increases arterial resistance and may increase cardiac afterload; norepinephrine exerts both arterial and venous α -adrenergic stimulation. Indeed, in addition to its arterial vasoconstrictor effect, norepinephrine induces venoconstriction at the level of the splanchnic circulation in particular, which increases the pressure in capacitance vessels and actively shifts splanchnic blood volume to the systemic circulation [25]. This venous adrenergic stimulation may recruit some blood from the venous unstressed volume. Moreover, stimulation of β_2 -adrenergic receptors decreases venous resistance and increases venous return [25]. Animal studies that investigated uncontrolled haemorrhage have suggested that norepinephrine infusion reduces the amount of fluid resuscitation required to achieve a given arterial pressure target, is associated with lower blood loss and significantly improved survival [26, 27].

Furthermore, because vasopressors may increase cardiac afterload if the infusion rate is

excessive or left ventricular function is already impaired, an assessment of cardiac function during the initial ultrasound examination is essential. Cardiac dysfunction could be altered in the trauma patient following cardiac contusion, pericardial effusion or secondary to brain injury with intracranial hypertension. The presence of myocardial dysfunction requires treatment with an inotropic agent such as dobutamine or epinephrine. In the absence of an evaluation of cardiac function or cardiac output monitoring, cardiac dysfunction must be suspected in the presence of a poor response to fluid expansion and vasopressor.

6.2.4 Red Blood Cell Transfusion

Blood's main duty is to carry and deliver oxygen to tissues. During bleeding, this capacity is degraded due to two principal phenomena: drop in local blood flow and loss of oxygen carrier, haemoglobin. As seen in the previous section, local blood flow can be restored at least temporarily by fluid infusion and vasopressors use. This fluid infusion, combined with the physiological response to blood loss leading to fluid transfers from cellular and interstitial compartments to the vascular bed, causes the dilution of the haemoglobin and the drop in haemoglobin level (Hb). However, because the relationship between Hb and adverse outcomes in patient with haemorrhagic shock has not been assessed yet [28], it is not possible to determine with certitude the optimal Hb in trauma patients.

Because no artificial oxygen carrier is available so far, the only way to restore the capability of blood to carry oxygen to the tissues is to transfuse RBCs. RBCs are available as packed RBCs (PRBCs) from blood banks. The shelf storage time is limited to about 40 days at 4 °C, but the longer the storage, the more lysed RBCs release intracellular toxic content as potassium or free haemoglobin. This is why a LIFO (last in, first out) procedure for PRBCs release from blood banks needs to be implemented for severely injured patients [29].

272 In the *European* guidelines, the Hb threshold
273 for PRBCs transfusion is set to 7–9 g/dL [23]
274 where in US guidelines Hb is set to 7 g/dL [30].
275 These recommendations are based on studies
276 showing that PRBCs transfusions can be
277 associated with increased mortality, lung injury,
278 increased infection rate and renal failure in
279 injured patients and mainly on the *Transfusion*
280 *Requirements in Critical Care* (TRICC) study
281 demonstrating no efficacy of liberal approach
282 (Hb threshold of 10–12 g/dL) versus restricted
283 approach (7–9 g/dL) on mortality [31]. For
284 patients with concomitant haemorrhagic shock
285 and traumatic brain injury, recent studies demon-
286 strate no beneficial effect of a higher Hb thresh-
287 old for RBCs transfusion on mortality or
288 neurological outcomes but a higher risk of throm-
289 boembolic events [32, 33], even if a higher Hb
290 improves local cerebral oxygenation [34].

291 RBCs play also a major role in haemostasis.
292 Circulating RBCs marginate the platelets close to
293 the endothelium, enhancing their adhesion capa-
294 bilities [35], and support thrombin generation
295 providing interactions with coagulation factors
296 on their cellular surfaces [36].

297 **6.2.5 Fibrinolysis Prevention**

298 Fibrinolysis is a key component of the physio-
299 logical haemostasis system. It mainly involves
300 the tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) and its
301 inhibitors, the plasminogen activator inhibitors
302 (PAI1 and 2) to regulate the activation of the
303 plasminogen into plasmin, responsible for fibrin
304 binding and degradation. However, a huge stim-
305 ulation of the coagulation system after severe
306 trauma and activated protein C (aPC) system
307 activation by tissue hypoperfusion [37] can lead
308 to an exacerbation of the fibrinolysis. This
309 hyperfibrinolysis is an essential part of the ACoT
310 and is associated with a mortality rate of nearly
311 90% [38].

312 The best way to assess hyperfibrinolysis in
313 trauma patients is to use viscoelastic tests.
314 However, the low sensitivity of this method does
315 not allow to detect low increases in fibrinolytic
316 activity, still accountable for ACoT [39].

Hyperfibrinolysis contribution to ACoT can 317
be lower by the use of an antifibrinolytic agent. 318
The CRASH-2 study [40] assessed the system- 319
atic injection of tranexamic acid (TXA) in trauma 320
patients with or at risk of severe bleeding. The 321
competitive binding of the plasminogen/plasmin 322
site on the fibrin allows the TXA to inhibit the 323
fibrinolysis. The injection of a loading dose of 324
1 g of TXA over 10 min followed by the infusion 325
of 1 g over 8 h led to a significant reduction in 326
mortality from bleeding without an increase in 327
thromboembolic events rate. From that same 328
trial, a deeper analysis showed that TXA lowers 329
the risk of death by bleeding by 2.5% if given less 330
than 1 h after trauma and by 1.3% if given 331
between 1 and 3 h after trauma. However, the risk 332
is increased by 1.3% if the TXA is given more 333
than 3 h after trauma [41]. The MATTERS study 334
conducted in military setting later consolidated 335
these conclusions [42]. Based on these results, 336
European guidelines recommend the systematic 337
injection of TXA (1 g/10 min, 1 g/8 h) as soon as 338
possible, within the 3 h after the injury [23]. 339

**6.2.6 Plasma and Platelet 340
Transfusion in Haemostatic 341
Resuscitation 342**

Coagulation factors and platelets can be shed, 343
consumed, diluted or inactivated in severe trauma 344
patients. Even if they play only a partial role in 345
the ACoT, their replacement is crucial to restore 346
the haemostasis. Standard available fresh frozen 347
plasma (FFP) contains all the major coagulation 348
factors in proportions close to the physiological 349
levels and seems to have anti-inflammatory prop- 350
erty while lessening the endothelial hyper- 351
permeability after haemorrhagic shock [43]. Its 352
transfusion should be initiated as soon as possible 353
to avoid iatrogenic or physiological dilutional 354
coagulopathy during a balanced resuscitation 355
with PRBCs. However, the optimal ratio of FFP 356
to PRBCs remains of debate. Some studies 357
showed a potential benefit of an FFP-PRBCs 358
ratio close to 1:1 [44, 45]. However, these results 359
were discussed and potentially flawed by survival 360
bias (i.e. less severe patients survive longer 361

enough to get more plasma, thawed plasma being available later than PRBCs) [46]. The recent PROPPR randomized clinical trial [47] compared 1:1:1 FFP-PLT-PRBCs ratio to 1:1:2 in severe trauma patients without survival bias. Unfortunately, the results showed a nonstatistically significant reduction in mortality for the 1:1:1 ratio group, letting the question open. European guidelines propose to transfuse 1 FFP every two PRBCs during the initial management of patients with expected massive haemorrhage, continued with goal-directed therapy based on standard laboratory (PT or aPTT inferior to 1.5 times the normal controls) and/or viscoelastic tests [23]. To resolve the delay in availability of the FFP, plasma can be stored as thawed plasma or liquid (fresh nonfrozen) plasma. But in this form, labile coagulation factors like FVIII can be depleted [48]. Lyophilized plasma provided by the *French* military is a nice option. Available in 10 min, stable at room temperature and universal, it offers a great alternative to FFP [49].

Fibrinogen, a key component in the coagulation cascade, is the first and most depleted factor in haemorrhagic trauma patients [50]. However, FFP concentration in fibrinogen is not high enough to restore fibrinogen levels with only FFP transfusion [51], and it may be required to administer fibrinogen through cryoprecipitate or fibrinogen concentrate.

Platelet depletion or dysfunction [52] in trauma patients needs to be addressed by platelet transfusion. Platelets are available as platelet concentrate (PLT) or apheresis platelets (aPLT) containing approximately six times more platelets and plasma. *European* guidelines [44] propose to transfuse platelets if platelet count is less than $50.10^9/L$ in trauma patients or less than $100.10^9/L$ in case of ongoing bleeding or traumatic brain injury.

The best way to replace shed whole blood after or during haemorrhage would be to use whole blood, in replacement for component therapy. Even if used and authorized in remote military setting when blood products are lacking and needs for transfusion surge [53, 54], this technique has not reached the routine clinical prac-

tices because of some misconceptions (necessity for whole blood to be ABO specific, impossibility to obtain leucoreduced whole blood while maintaining platelets and loss of platelet function caused by cold storage) [55].

6.2.7 Viscoelastic Techniques and Administration of Concentrated Factors

Standard coagulation tests are of little use for haemorrhagic shock management because they generally require more than an hour, and urgent corrective action may not be delayed that long. To adapt the treatment of haemostasis after the initial phase, viscoelastic techniques (VETs) may be very useful. VETs have been developed for several years and represent a comprehensive assessment of clot formation based on the mechanisms originating coagulopathy, including, in a second stage, inflammatory phenomena [56, 57]. It is possible to obtain a faster and more accurate evaluation of haemostasis through the use of activator or inhibitor which allows to distinguish phenomena occurring during ongoing bleeding such as fibrinogen deficit and hyperfibrinolysis. Identifying deficits makes possible to intervene specifically with clotting factor concentrates, avoiding the use of labile blood products (LBP), and, although this remains to be demonstrated formally, reduce morbidity related to the use of the LBP (multiple organ failure, infection, ARDS, TRALI and TACO) [58–60]. According to the latest *European* guidelines, VETs are accepted as alternative to standard coagulation tests to guide the treatment of posttraumatic coagulopathy (grade 1C) [23].

6.2.7.1 Principles of Clot Viscoelastic Property Studies

Clot formation is assessed with ROTEM® (Tem GMBH, Munich, Germany) or with TEG® (Haemoscope Corporation, Niles, Illinois, USA). These tools explore dynamics of clot development, stabilization and dissolution (fibrinolysis) [60–64]. The measured parameters are time (s), amplitude (mm) or angles. The measurements are

made on whole blood collected in a citrated tube. The recalcified blood is then placed in a cuvette heated to 37 °C (or to temperature of the patient), in which a pin is plunged. The speed of rotation thereof will depend on the viscosity of blood. According to the technique, it is either the cuvette which rotates (TEG®) or the pin (ROTEM®). In the latest version of TEG®, measures are made by an electro-optical technique. To accelerate the technical and differentiating phenomena involved in haemostasis disorders, activators are added. They depend on the type of techniques used [60].

ROTEM® analyser uses routinely four channels: INTEM (intrinsic contact activation pathway explored by adding ellagic acid), EXTEM (extrinsic pathway explored by adding tissue factor), FIBTEM (addition of cytochalasin D which blocks the platelets to explore fibrinogen function) and APTEM (addition of aprotinin for inhibiting and therefore exploring fibrinolysis). Two other channels are used in specific circumstances: HEPTTEM (INTEM + heparinase to assess heparin effect) and ECATEM (addition of ecarin to detect thrombin inhibitors). In trauma, most useful channels are EXTEM and FIBTEM. Thus, a deficit in prothrombin and in fibrinogen and a low platelet count can be discriminated. As an example, an EXTEM with a short clotting time (thrombin formation correct) and with a diminished maximal clot firmness will suggest low platelet activity if maximal clot firmness is normal with FIBTEM.

TEG® analyser uses generally one single channel after activation by kaolin (equivalent to INTEM). However, it has been shown that platelet and fibrinogen contributions to maximal amplitude could not be differentiated [65]. Therefore TEG® can now be performed with addition of both tissue factor and kaolin (rapid-TEG) to explore the extrinsic pathway, and with addition of abciximab, a potent platelet inhibitor, to explore fibrinogen function [66].

6.2.7.2 Coagulopathy Diagnosis by VETs

At admission, the results of the standard biology are correlated to some ROTEM® parameters, e.g. clotting time (CT) (EXTEM) and PT (prothrombin time) or maximal clot firmness (MCF)

(FIBTEM) and level of fibrinogen [67, 68]. Similarly, TEG® R parameter (equivalent to CT) is correlated to PT; correlations were observed between the parameter R (equivalent to CT) and PT [69, 70]. However, this good correlation between standard and viscoelastic techniques at admission may vary during the management [57]. Thus, a CT EXTEM is less correlated to PT after attempt to correct coagulopathy and/or depending to pathophysiological criteria as acidosis and hypothermia [57]. The standard test that estimates the concentration of clotting factors does not take into account the effect of inflammation that develops in the hours following the trauma and activates coagulation. Thus, only VETs that take into account all parameters can provide a fair image of coagulation status [57]. The possibility to predict the need for massive transfusion has been reported with ROTEM® [68, 71, 72] as well as with TEG® (rapid-TEG) [73]. Many algorithms have been proposed to treat bleeding disorders. However these algorithms are specific to either technique and non-interchangeable.

6.2.7.3 VETs and Coagulation Factor Concentrates

Post-traumatic coagulopathy is complex and includes phenomena of coagulation factor loss, dilution, thrombocytopenia, platelet disorders, consumption and fibrinolysis [74]. Fibrinogen deficiency is the most observed among factor deficiencies. The massive release of tissue factor which activates haemostasis and increases thrombin generation is important to consider. Thus, in trauma patients, thrombin generation remains increased as long as factor levels remain >30% [75]. This increase in thrombin generation associated with the frequently observed fibrinogen deficiency suggests the order of administration of haemostatic products. It is thus likely that fibrinogen concentrates have to be administered first, followed in a second phase (ideally according to standard coagulation tests or VETs) by the FFP and the PC (or PCC ? prothrombin complex concentrate) except, of course, situations of severe haemorrhagic shock when fibrinogen FFP and PCC are administered simultaneously. This

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method is only valid when fibrinogen concentrates are available (fibrinogen concentrates and/or cryoprecipitate).

ROTEM® was evaluated in trauma through retrospective or prospective observational studies. The level of proof thus remains relatively low. Schöchl et al. suggested in a first study that ROTEM®-guided administration of coagulation factors improved patient survival when compared to a predictive mortality score (TRISS) [76]. The same group showed that when comparing patients treated with factor concentrates guided by ROTEM® with patients receiving labile blood components (LBC) guided by the standard biology, they could reduce significantly the use of LBC but also the incidence of multiple organ failure without affecting survival [77]. In a recent study, an Italian team confirmed the reduction of the use of LBC reducing costs significantly by more than 23% but still with no change in survival [78]. The issue with all these studies (however this could also be considered an advantage) is that ROTEM® use is combined with that of factor concentrates making it difficult to know what ultimately is most important [79]. A European randomized study should start soon to compare standard biology and ROTEM® using LBP in the same initial ratio (iTACTIC Study, NCT02593877, trial.gov).

As regards TEG®, a retrospective study involving 1974 patients showed that TEG® could perfectly replace the standard biological tests [80]. In a recent randomized work, it has been shown that the use of TEG® in comparison with the standard biology could improve patient survival at 28 days without association with a modification of LBP consumption in the first 24 h except for cryoprecipitate (paradoxically greater in the group standard biology). A higher consumption of FFP and PCC was observed in the group standard biology in the early hours [81]. According to the authors, this result was related primarily to a decreased mortality from bleeding and a decreased early mortality by earlier diagnosis of coagulopathy and appropriate action. A reduction of ICU stay length with an increased number of ventilator-free days was also observed.

Finally, in severe trauma, situations of hyperfibrinolysis whose prognosis is catastrophic can be observed. TEG® and ROTEM® allow a rapid and accurate diagnosis of hyperfibrinolyses [82] but will lack sensitivity to assess the intensity of fibrinolysis especially if minor or moderate [39]. Usually thresholds of 3% maximum fibrinolysis (maximum lysis) on TEG® and 15% on ROTEM® are applied to diagnose hyperfibrinolysis. If in Europe, tranexamic acid is widely used since the CRASH-2 trial in severe trauma [40], in North America, the practice is rather to administer tranexamic acid to patients with hyperfibrinolysis documented by VETs [82].

6.3 Damage Control Resuscitation once Bleeding Has Been Stopped

Further resuscitation once haemostasis has been achieved is the intensive care unit resuscitative phase where physiological and biochemical stabilization is achieved and a thorough tertiary examination is performed to identify all injuries (Fig. 6.3) [83]. This step is devoted to reverse the sequelae of hypotension-related metabolic failure and support physiological and biochemical restoration. Simultaneous treatment of all physiological abnormalities is essential, and as a result, the first several hours in the ICU are extremely labour intensive and often require the collaborative efforts of multiple critical care physicians, nurses and ancillary staff [84]. Efforts to warm during surgery, shorten the shock and improve coagulation are pursued. An aggressive approach to correction of coagulopathy is paramount, and procoagulant objectives remain the same. Assessment of visceral dysfunction is achieved (in particular the lung, kidney and liver). One of the keys to physiological restoration is the establishment of adequate oxygen delivery to body tissues. Haemodynamic optimization in this step of major post-shock inflammation often requires a significant fluid volume expansion due to vasodilation. The needs of vasopressors can also be very consequent. Objectives of blood pressure change and aim to restore adequate perfusion of

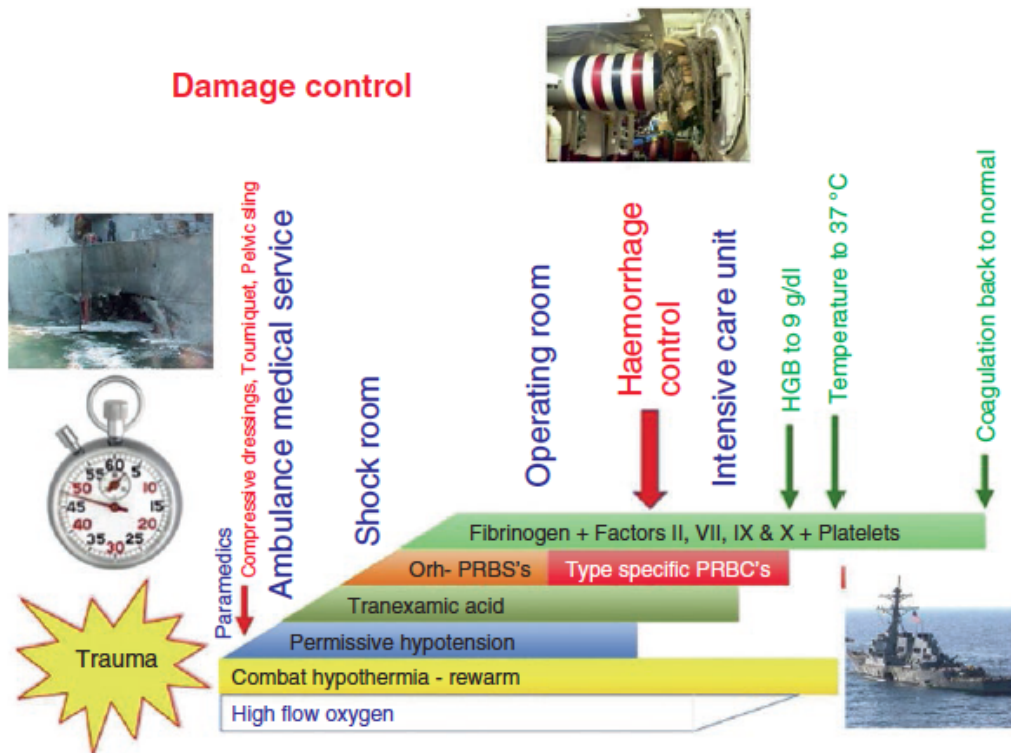


Fig. 6.3 Increasing power of damage control. Damage control should be started in the field by the paramedics who are trained to stop bleeding with local pressure or tourniquets, administer oxygen and combat hypothermia. The race against the clock starts. The emergency team in the field should strive for only minimal vascular filling, the objective being to obtain a systolic blood pressure of 90 mmHg [23]; tranexamic acid should be administered [42]. O-negative and then type-specific PRBC transfusions are started with the objective of obtaining haemoglobin of 9 g/dL (according to European guidelines [23]); coagulation disorders are corrected by administration of

fibrinogen [23], coagulation factors [77] and platelet concentrates [23]. The patient is transferred rapidly to the operating room (or angiography suite, as necessary). When bleeding has been arrested, blood pressure should return to normal. Damage control resuscitation should be pursued until preset objectives of haemoglobin, temperature and coagulation parameters are attained. The comparison with naval damage control can be made in that not only should the water inflow be stopped, but the vital functions of the vessel must be restored as well (electricity, communications, propulsion, rudder) (E. Voiglio et al. *J Visc Surg.* 2016,153,13–24)

all organs (MAP = 65 mmHg). Invasive monitoring devices are generally used to guide fluid administration and normalize haemodynamics. Abramson and colleagues did show that serum lactate clearance correlates well with patient survival and that the ability to clear lactate to normal levels within 24 h was paramount to ensuing patient survival [85]. Immediate and aggressive core rewarming not only improves perfusion but also helps reverse coagulopathy. All of the warming manoeuvres initiated in the trauma bay and operating theatre should be duplicated in the intensive care unit. Gentilello showed that failure to correct a patient's hypothermia after a damage

control operation is a marker of inadequate resuscitation or irreversible shock [84]. A complete physical examination or 'tertiary survey' of the patient should occur. This should include relevant imaging studies where appropriate, and the patient should also proceed to CT scan to detect occult injuries if stable enough. In cases of blunt trauma, completion of the spinal survey is imperative. Finally, the scheduled revision surgery is the last step of the DC strategy and occurs after 12–48 h (sometimes 72 h) of stabilization. The consensual approach is to consider the second look when lethal triad is under control. It has two objectives: the final repair organs (packings

removal, intestinal anastomoses and definitive vascular repair) and the permanent closure of the abdomen. One should keep in mind that if a patient does not normalize haemodynamically or lactic acid or base deficit fail to improve, the patient should be taken back to the operating theatre earlier for re-exploration. Generally, two subgroups of patients are seen in this step that require 'unplanned' re-operation before physiological restoration. The first is the group of patients who have ongoing transfusion requirements or persistent acidosis despite normalized clotting and core temperature. Monitoring of the clinical (blood pressure, tachycardia, suction drains, dressings) and biological parameters (haemoglobin, lactate level) can lead to the decision to further surgery and/or angiography. These patients are usually found to have ongoing surgical bleeding or a missed visceral injury that was not treated adequately during the initial damage control operation and have a very high mortality rate [86]. The second group requiring unplanned return to the operating theatre have developed abdominal compartment syndrome defined as sustained or repeated intravesical pressure above 20 mmHg in the presence of new single or multiple organ system failure [87]. This could be the consequence of abdominal trauma which is accompanied by a visceral oedema and haematomas but also the use of intra-abdominal packing.

Conclusion

The treatment of bleeding remains to stop the bleeding. DCR is together with DCS part of a global DC strategy. DCR is a potent tool to hinder and even reverse the lethal triad. Delaying bleeding control under the pretext that DCR is available and effective is a fallacious conduct that results in increased morbidity and mortality.

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