MEMO

Date: May 26, 2016

To: Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee Members

From: Dennis Ashley, MD
Chairman, Trauma Multidisciplinary Committee

The Trauma Multidisciplinary Review committee met Tuesday, May 24, 2016, for our monthly review. Please find the following teaching points and synopsis of the discussion. Please share this information with physicians from your Department who participate on the Trauma Call schedule.

- Geriatric trauma- The elderly trauma patient can be difficult to manage after sustaining blunt trauma. We have seen an increase in the geriatric trauma patient volume in our trauma center as the population is aging. These patients typically present with multiple co-morbidities and have less physiologic reserve. These patients should be monitored closely and may require admission to the ICU even with less severe injuries.

- Focused abdominal sonography for trauma (FAST) exam- The FAST exam is very useful in diagnosing hemoperitoneum in the patient with blunt abdominal trauma. It should be noted that rib fractures, a pneumothorax or increased BMI may limit the accuracy of FAST. These limitations should be taken into account during resuscitation.