

# Vascular injury

## (January 2017)

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### Rationale

Vascular injuries are relatively common and may be limb, organ or life threatening.

### Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Penetrating trauma (e.g., laceration)
- Blunt trauma (e.g., contusion, spasm, compression)

### Key Objectives

Given a patient with vascular injury, the candidate will diagnose the cause, severity and complications, and will initiate an appropriate management plan. In particular, the candidate will act quickly to ensure revascularization.

### Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with potential vascular injury, the candidate will

- list and interpret critical clinical findings, including
  - a. history and physical examination data focused on vascular injury (e.g., acute limb ischemia, compartment syndrome);
  - b. consider blood loss that is not apparent on clinical examination (e.g., retroperitoneal hemorrhage);
- list and interpret critical investigations, including
  - a. assessment of pulses using Doppler probe, if appropriate;
  - b. imaging studies to assess vessel integrity, if appropriate;

- c. assessment of compartment pressure, if required;
- construct an effective initial management plan, including
  - a. initiate resuscitation assess the patient's response to resuscitation;
  - b. control external bleeding, if required;
  - c. ensure timely referral of the patient for specialized care, if required.