

Practice Codes often; every second counts

Capella J et al. Teamwork training improves the clinical care of trauma patients. J Surg Educ. 2010 Nov-Dec;67(6):439-43



## • Rule out fatal injuries

- Never diminish the magnitude of the patient's complaints
- Never make subjective judgments
- It cant be aortic injury, since only 2 tribs are broken "

Kim AS et al. Risk of vascular events in emergency department patients discharged home with diagnosis of dizziness or vertigo. Ann Emerg Med. 2011 Jan; 57(1): 34-41.





## **Always Document**

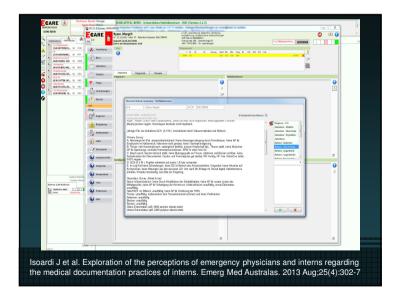
- Case: A 55 -year old construction worker on Aspirin, gets treated for mild TBI in your ED
- Patient insists to go home.
- The doctor does not notes down that the patient has to come back if headache gets worst etc. and does not assure that patient is not alone at home.
- The patient fails to follow-up and dies at home from a secondary brain bleed.
- Discussions follow ups are a *vital* part of the job
- Discussions have to be documented.

Magauran BG Jr. Risk management for the emergency physician: competency and decisionmaking capacity, informed consent, and refusal of care against medical advice. Emerg Med Clin North Am. 2009 Nov;27(4):605-14

- Always document only what you have observed
- Never do copy paste negative documentation of any relevant signs/symptoms
- Case: Never note that ALL pulses are palpable, if you have not checked them.
- If there is documentation; it will be assumed that you have CHECKED it YOURSELFand you will be accountable!

Isoardi J et al. Exploration of the perceptions of emergency physicians and interns regarding the medical documentation practices of interns. Emerg Med Australas. 2013 Aug;25(4):302-7









- Collect information required for your diagnosis
- Ask for relevant tests that support/influence your final diagnosis.
- ▶ 10% of all Trop T are false negative ( > POC !)
- Hb`s can be misleading in both ways
- Coagulation tests are usually at least 30 minutes old before you get them
- Last but not least check patient and result sheet

Saad Aldin E et al. Emerg Med Australas. 2012 Jun;24(3):239-43.



Hasler et al. Systolic blood pressure below 110 mmHg is associated with increased mortality in penetrating major trauma patients: Multicenter cohort study. Resuscitation. 2012 Apr;83(4):476et



- Patients can be wrong, colleagues can be wrong; staff might have misinterpreted facts and info
- Always examine the patient yourself, check the reports and old records yourself, and document your observations yourself
- Trauma care is built on hands on facts
- Specialists are wonderful creatures; however the ones in the emergency department usually are the junior ones

## YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR PATIENT THAN ANY BODY ELSE

Talbot R, Bleetman A. Retention of information by emergency department staff at ambulance handover: do standardised approaches work? Emerg Med J. 2007 Aug;24(8):539-42.





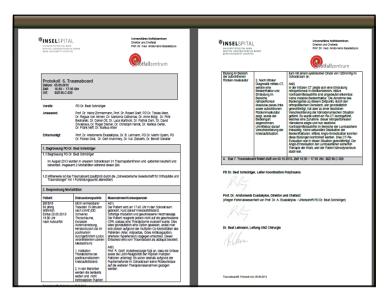
- Everybody makes mistakes; mistakes happen
- Negligence should be punished
- Learn from mistakes; mistakes help to make experts
- Do not punish whistleblowers
- Make this problem a senior case and not another junior doctor's challenge
- Use "M&Ms" to develop a team spirit and a YES WE CAN BETTER ATTITUDE

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Seigel TA et al. Morbidity and Mortality conference in Emergency Medicine. J Emerg Med. 2010
May;38(4):507-11
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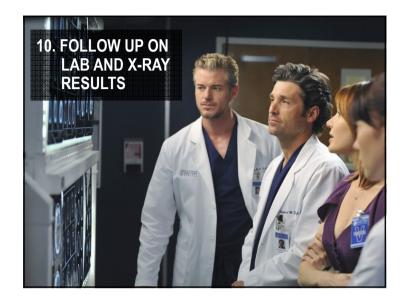
## The Golden Rule





- Doctors' duty is to treat and not judge
- Patients can be demanding at times; but that should not stop you from providing them great care and treating them with courtesy and respect
- > Same applies to colleagues and staff

Jacobs LM et al. Trauma death: views of the public and trauma professionals on death and dying from injuries. Arch Surg 2008; 143: 730-735



- Trusting the first report from specialists might be problematic. Often juniors (e.g. radiology)
- Results not discussed with the patient is bad clinical practice (The trauma patient with a tumor)
- The patient and colleagues remain unaware, symptoms become fulminant, and when old records are checked, evidence is seen in the X-ray reports or lab reports-> doc gets sued!
- IF MISSED IN ACTION: Contact the patient or colleagues, discuss the results and you will be saving yourself and possibly the patient's health

Callen J, et al. The safety implications of missed test results for hospitalized patients: a systematic review. BMJ Qual Saf. 2011 Feb;20(2):194-9.

