Moderate Intra-abdominal Free Fluid on Computed Tomogram in Patients with Blunt Trauma Abdomen: Time to Shun Non-operative Approach: Reply

Ismail Mahmood · Husham Abdelrahman ·
Hassan Al-Thani · Ayman El-Menyar

Published online: 3 October 2014
© Société Internationale de Chirurgie 2014

Thank you for your invaluable comments. The purpose of our study was to determine the significance of CT scan findings of free fluid in the abdomen in the management of blunt abdominal trauma patients. Our conclusion was that CT scan alone is inaccurate for prediction of bowel injury and the correlation between CT findings and clinical course is important for optimal diagnosis of bowel and mesenteric injuries. Depending on CT scan alone had led to unnecessary laparotomy in 72 % of patients. The importance of moderate amount of free fluid was unquestionable; however, more than 55 % of the patients of moderate amount of free fluid were treated conservatively. This means that patients who had this finding are not necessarily to have bowel injury. Small amount of fluid could be as important as moderate amount; however, we did not conclude that moderate fluid is not of value but it did not alone indicate laparotomy. We recalculated and corrected the odd ratio for moderate versus minimal/mild fluid (OR 8.10, 95 % CI 2.107–30.354) in our study and we do agree that wide C.I and small sample size were not enough to draw solid

association. However, we are confident that our results are valid and could improve patients outcome and similar trends were observed by previous researchers [1, 2]. The short-term follow-up in our study did not show any significant complications in those who were treated conservatively. Regardless the amount of fluid, the clinical course in addition to imaging findings is important before therapeutic laparotomy.

References

1. Eanniello VC II, Gabram SG, Eusebio R, Jacobs LM (1994) Isolated free fluid on abdominal computerized tomographic scan: an indication for surgery in blunt trauma patients? *Conn Med* 58:707–710
2. Sharma OP, Oswanski MF et al (2004) The role of computed tomography in diagnosis of blunt intestinal and mesenteric trauma. *J Emerg Med*. doi:[10.1016/j.jemermed.2004.02.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2004.02.012)

I. Mahmood · H. Abdelrahman · H. Al-Thani
Trauma Surgery Section, Hamad General Hospital, Doha, Qatar

A. El-Menyar (✉)
Trauma Clinical Research, Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha,
Qatar
e-mail: traumaresearch@hmc.org.qa

A. El-Menyar
Weill Cornell Medical College, Clinical Medicine, Qatar
Foundation-Education City, Doha, Qatar