

Is there an indication for pre-hospital trepanation?

authors: G. Freude¹, U.M. Mauer¹, R. Dulou², J.M. Delmas²

corresponding author: Dr. med. Gregor Freude
Klinik für Neurochirurgie
Oberer Eselsberg 40
Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Ulm
gregor.freude@uni-ulm.de

Institution: ¹ Dep. of Neurosurgery; Bundeswehrkrankenhaus Ulm, Germany
² Dep. of Neurosurgery; Hôpital d'Instruction des Armées Percy,
Clamart, France

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Abstract:

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) can be a severe injury. In case of a severe traumatic brain injury the patient should arrive in a trauma center within 60 minutes. Computed tomography scan of the brain has to be performed quickly in order to assess the extent of intracranial injury. In the case of posttraumatic unconsciousness, direct transport to a trauma center with neurosurgical care is recommended. If required after the computed tomography an operation should be performed. Glasgow-Coma-Scale (GCS) under 9, intubation and ventilation should be performed. Normoventilation, normoxemia and normotension should be achieved. According to the literature and to examples there is no indication for pre-hospital trepanation in military missions or in the civilian emergency medical service. Trepanation without diagnostic is life-threatening for the patient. Critical bleeding of the scalp must be stopped in pre-hospital settings.