Geriatric Emergency Medicine Initiative
Resident Training Lecture Objectives

Trauma in the Aging Patient

Presenter: Dr. Anthony DiPasquale
Length: 1 hour
Target Audience:
   Emergency Medicine Residents (Primary)
   Internal Medicine Residents
   Emergency Medicine Faculty

Presentation Overview:
Geriatric trauma results from a variety of causes prominent among them are an increased incidence of motor vehicle accidents and falls with advancing age; seven percent of Emergency Department admissions in patients over the age of 75 are due to falls. Complications following falls represent a major cause of morbidity in the elderly resulting in a third of all admissions to nursing homes. In this session, the emergency medicine resident will learn how to evaluate, diagnose, and stabilize the elderly trauma patient. In addition, the resident will also learn to identify common risk factors for falls.

Learning objectives:
At the end of this presentation, residents will be able to:
1. Evaluate elderly patients with traumatic injury due to falls including identifying precipitating causes, such as medications, alcohol use/abuse, gait or balance instability, medical illness, and/or deconditioning.
2. Institute appropriate early monitoring and testing of elders at risk for occult shock.
3. Advocate for appropriate interventions in the older patient with life-threatening traumatic conditions without discrimination based solely on age.
4. Identify the most appropriate trauma imaging modality, based on the diagnosis and weighing the potential risks to the older trauma patient.
5. Prescribe and appropriately dose with consideration for current medications, co-morbidities, and age-related pathophysiologic changes.
6. Identify currently taken medications such as beta blockers, anticoagulants, anti-platelet agents, and psychotropic agents that might mask shock and life-threatening hemorrhage in the older trauma patient.
7. Evaluate and manage pain and non-pain symptoms in the geriatric trauma victim.

Instructional Methods:
   Didactic presentation with PowerPoint slides
   Case-based discussion
   Audience response questions

Evaluation Methods:
   Pre-Test Items
   Post-Test Items
Reaction survey

Resource(s):
YouTube Lecture Presentation: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lj3uWs4SCs&feature=plcp

References: