

**PP039 A TICKING TIME BOMB - SURVIVAL FOLLOWING ACUTE BLUNT TRAUMATIC THORACIC AORTIC INJURY (BTAI): A CASE SERIES.**

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Abnormal chest radiograph findings, especially widening mediastinum should prompt advanced chest imaging. Early diagnosis, prompt transfer to the operating room and perfect surgery influence a favorable outcome.

**INTRODUCTION**

Acute blunt thoracic aorta injury (BTAI) has contributed to significant number of deaths in motor vehicle collision. Most of the time, thoracic aortic injury rarely manifest with obvious sign and symptoms hence high index of suspicion is necessary to catch the catastrophic injury and arrest it on its tract towards doom.

**CASE REPORT**

We report 3 cases of traumatic thoracic aortic injuries that illustrates the diagnostic and management challenges of this injury in Emergency Department. Resuscitative measures were undertaken and definitive management was outlined. Because of the high rate of early mortality in patients with BTAI, emergent surgical repair may help to avoid inevitable risk of fatal aortic rupture with exsanguinating hemorrhage. Unfortunately, resources are limited in the interiors of Sabah, particularly in the rural and small districts hospitals, which mandates the transfer of our patients to level one trauma center. Two patients were transferred to Cardiothoracic Center and underwent a successful percutaneous endovascular aortic repair. One of all three patients died due to excessive hemorrhage.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

A high index of suspicion remains important in the detection of BTAI. Given that clinical features are sometimes unreliable, the mechanisms with high energy blunt trauma involving rapid deceleration should raise suspicion of the injuries.