

# Combat injury

Combat [injury](#) patterns differ from civilian trauma in that the former are largely explosion-related, comprising multiple mechanistic and fragment injuries and high-kinetic-energy bullets.

In the 20th century, despite greater lethality of weapons, progressive advances in management led to improved outcomes for head injured patients. A triage system consisting of appropriate levels of care from the front lines, through combat support hospitals to reconstructive and rehabilitative hospitals, has also contributed to the improved outcomes of head injured patients. This chapter examines the progressive improvement in management strategies during major conflicts, the mechanisms causing head trauma during conflict, and the current medical and surgical therapies recommended in the care of head-injured patients during armed conflict <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>  
Gilhooly J, Siu A, Beare M, Ecklund JM. Acute management of military-related injury. Handb Clin Neurol. 2015;127:379-93. doi: 10.1016/B978-0-444-52892-6.00024-6. PubMed PMID: 25702229.

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