Ultrasound-Guided Triage

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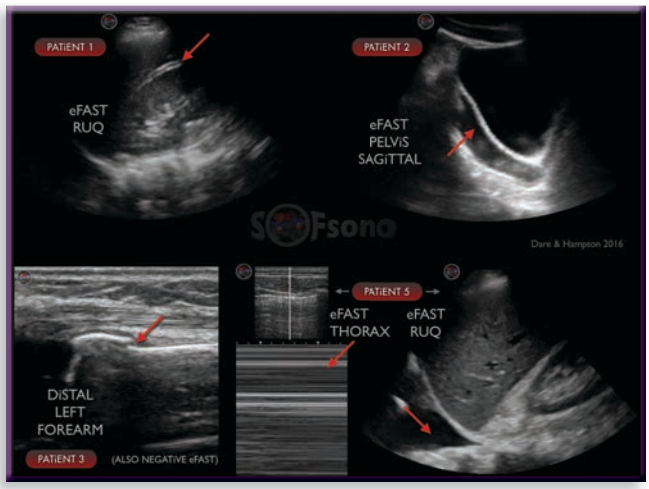
During a Partner Nation Force (PNF) field training exercise, you are called to a scene of a motor vehicle accident. Two all-terrain vehicles, carrying a total of five US and PNF Servicemembers, crashed into each other. As you triage the victims, you realize that all five potentially need further medical care. The closest hospital is 90 minutes away, and your local ambulance service is capable of transporting only two patients at a time.

- **Patient 1:** 35-Year-old man, heart rate (HR) 95 beats/minutes (bpm), blood pressure (BP) 105/65mmHg, respiratory rate (RR) 16/min, Spo_2 98% on room air, temperature (T) 36.6°C (97.8°F); reporting deep right flank pain; has a large right flank contusion and tenderness
- **Patient 2:** 40-Year-old man, HR 98 bpm, BP 100/55mmHg, RR 19/min, Spo_2 98% on room air, T 36.5°C (97.7°F); reporting generalized abdominal pain; has multiple abdominal wall abrasions and diffuse abdominal tenderness
- **Patient 3:** 21-Year-old man, HR 101 bpm, BP 105/75mmHg, RR 12/min, Spo_2 100% on room air, T 36.7°C (98°F); reporting pain in his abdomen and left forearm; has diffuse abdominal tenderness and left distal forearm swelling with intact neurovascular examination
- **Patient 4:** 32-Year-old man, HR 85 bpm, BP 100/60mmHg, RR 20/min, Spo_2 99% on room air, T 36.0°C (96.8°F), Glasgow Coma Scale score 15; complains of a frontal headache centered around a 4-cm forehead laceration.
- **Patient 5:** 25-Year-old man, HR 104 bpm, BP 99/50mmHg, RR 25/min, Spo_2 97% on room air, T 36.2°C (97°F); reporting right-sided pain in his ribs, it "hurts to breath." He has notable shallow respirations and a moderate-size chest wall contusion without crepitus.

To get a more precise idea about the extent of your patients' injuries and to establish the priority of transfer, you perform focused ultrasound studies on patients 1, 2, 3, and 5 (Figure 1).

Figure 1 *Pertinent ultrasound images for patients 1, 2, 3 and 5 as indicated respectively.*



1. What are their respective ultrasound findings?
2. How would your prioritize transfer before and after the ultrasound evaluations?

Join us at SOFsono.org for further case discussion.

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Disclosures

The authors have nothing to disclose

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