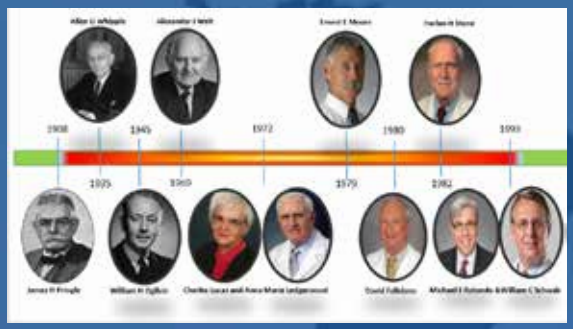
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Milestones and Key Figures in the Development of Damage Control Surgery

TRAUMA AND CRITICAL CARE SURGERY UPDATE: EXPANDING THE EVIDENCE — PART II

VEDAT ELJEZI: State of the Art Review: Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO): A Life-Saving Therapy And Its Challenges of Implementation In Emerging Healthcare Systems

NOAH ANTES, HUNTER ROW, THOMAS HALDIS, CORNELIUS DYKE: Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement for Severe Aortic Stenosis: A Review and Special Considerations

LULEJETA ATLANTIDA LATIFI, RIFAT LATIFI: Damage Control Surgery: An Update

WADE HOPPER, MENTOR AHMETI: State of the Art Interventions in Geriatric Trauma

DANIEL SCHEESE, TRAVIS SULLIVAN, JEFFREY HAYNES, EDGAR RODAS: Navigating the Challenges of Managing Pediatric Trauma: Current Trends, Evidence, and Practical Pathways

BELINDA DE SIMONE, FAUSTO CATENA, RIFAT LATIFI: Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis in Trauma and Critically Ill Patients: A State-of-the-Art Evidence-Based Review

OLUWAFEMI P. OWODUNNI, ELLIOTT HAUT: Implementing Sustainable Systems for Achieving Excellence in Venous Thromboembolism Prevention

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EDITORIAL

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Trauma and Critical Care Surgery Update: Expanding the Evidence — Part II

RIFAT LATIFI, MD, FACS, FICS, FKCS

Professor of Surgery, University of Arizona
College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona
Email: rlatifi@arizona.edu

The Kosova Journal of Surgery is pleased to present Part II of its special trauma-focused review series. Building on Part I, this issue brings together contributions from authors across the globe, collectively addressing the state of the art in trauma and critical care surgery. These papers were presented at the 2nd Professor Rao Ivatury Symposium on „Update on Trauma, Critical Care and Burns," held in December 2025 in Prishtina, Kosova. Latifi et al. open this focus volume with an update on Damage Control Surgery (DCS), a cornerstone technique that continues to evolve alongside advances the care of trauma and severely injured patients, or those with abdominal catastrophe.[1] Hopper et al. reviews current interventions tailored to the older patient's unique physiology and comorbidity burden, underscoring the need for a paradigm shift away from one-size-fits-all approaches toward truly individualized, geriatric-informed trauma care.[2]

Eljezi's state of the art review of Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) goes beyond clinical indications to candidly assess the challenges of implementing this resource-intensive therapy in emerging healthcare systems — a tension particularly relevant to this journal's readership.[3] Antes et al. broaden the scope with a review of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), highlighting special considerations that intersect with the cardiovascular complexities often encountered in trauma patients.[4]

Pediatric trauma is addressed from two angles: Scheese et al. provide a comprehensive review of current trends and practical pathways in pediatric trauma management,[5] while Memeti et al. present a two-case study contrasting surgical and conservative approaches in blunt polytrauma — a format that stimulates reflective clinical reasoning.[6]

Two complementary articles on Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) stand out for their translational depth. De Simone et al. offer a rigorous evidence-based review of VTE prophylaxis in trauma and critically ill patients,[7] while Owodunni et al. tackle the systems-level challenge of implementing sustainable VTE prevention programs[8] — together spanning the full arc from evidence to practice.

Regional contributions enrich this issue further. Muça et al. share over a decade of single-center experience with Endoscopic Brain Biopsy, reflecting the growth of neurosurgical capacity in the region,[9] while a second report from the same group describes a rare vastus lateralis intramuscular lipoma incarcerating the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve — a case with meaningful diagnostic and surgical lessons.[10]

Prof. Ramia's group presents to our readers a rare and fascinating case of retroperitoneal mucinous cystadenocarcinoma, offering valuable insights into its clinical management.[11]

An insightful perspective by Bhattacharya and colleagues on Artificial Intelligence in Acute Compartment Syndrome serves as a timely invitation to consider how emerging technologies may enhance recognition and decision-making in a condition where diagnostic delays carry devastating consequences.[12] This issue closes with the Image of the Month — a new and welcome addition to the Kosova Journal of Surgery, curated by Professor José M. Ramia, Associate Editor of the journal and of this section.[13] This feature celebrates the enduring value of careful clinical observation, and this inaugural contribution offers a striking reminder of the unexpected anatomical and pathological findings that surgeons must be prepared to encounter in complex procedures such as liver transplantation. We are deeply grateful to all contributors for their expertise, scholarly generosity, and unwavering dedication to advancing surgical knowledge. We trust that readers — whether in Prishtina, Tirana, or across the broader international community — will find within these pages both scientific rigor and practical guidance of direct relevance to their daily practice.

It is our sincere hope that this focused review series will serve as a current and reliable reference in the literature on trauma and critical care — a resource for surgeons, intensivists, and all clinicians engaged in the care of the injured and the critically ill, reflecting the most contemporary evidence available to guide their decisions.

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