

General Surgery Paper Case #4

On June 10, 2020, you were the clerk on duty at the ER and at 8:00 pm you received a 30 year old male from Cavite brought by an ambulance 1.5 hours post injury. Patient was allegedly intoxicated and was driving his motorcycle when he lost control and crashed into the pavement. Patient was brought to PGH-ER. He was received at the emergency room awake, speaks in phrases, oriented, with spontaneous eye opening and follows command, complaining of left chest pain.

The patient had the following vital signs:

BP 90/60 mmHg, HR 110 beats/ min, RR 28 breaths/ min, O₂sat at 88%, Temp 37C.

Physical findings showed: slightly pale palpebral conjunctiva, no neck vein engorgement, absent breath sound on the Left, hyperresonant/tympanic on percussion, (+) tenderness Left 4th ICS, distinct heart sounds, soft abdomen but with tenderness on the left upper quadrant on palpation, no gross deformities on the face and extremities.

FAST was performed after stabilizing the patient with “positive” finding at the splenorenal space

1. Present your history and physical examination using the primary survey (ABCDE) approach in Trauma
2. What is the immediate life threatening condition that need to be corrected during your ABCDE? Any differentials? What will be your intervention? Do you need to complete the P.E. and wait for diagnostics procedure before doing your intervention? What do you expect to find in a upright Chest Xray of this patient (if done before any intervention)
3. What is FAST and what does ‘POSITIVE’ mean?
4. Working Impression for this patient?
5. What diagnostic exams will you request and give the rationale for each, advantage and disadvantage of each? In a stable patients vs unstable patient.
6. What is your plan for the patient? What are the indications for doing a thoracotomy if patient has hemothorax? Indications for laparotomy in patient with hemoperitoneum?
7. How do you differentiate Pneumothorax, tension pneumothorax, hemothorax and cardiac tamponade based on physical examinations and chest Xray findings? (you can use images to show the difference)