Oral Communication

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Roadside to Recovery: The Inpatient Trauma Service, an Integrated Care Model in a Major Trauma Centre in Ireland

Topic: Rehabilitation Across the Continuum of Care

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BACKGROUND

The optimal care of patients with traumatic injuries requires a coordinated and integrated system of trauma care. Improvements in outcomes for patients can be achieved by providing patient-focused and planned trauma care.

Cork University Hospital (CUH) is the designated Major Trauma Center (MTC) supporting the South Trauma Network in Ireland. The Inpatient Trauma Service (IPTS) was developed to improve trauma care and has been operational since June 2023. The IPTS is a consultant-led team of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals that coordinate the care of the trauma patients upon presentation to CUH and aims to expedite their journey through rehabilitation and to recovery.

To describe the inpatient trauma service and assess the impact on patient care.

METHODS

The IPTS identifies injuries, coordinates acute care, assesses rehabilitation needs and delivers acute rehabilitation, and provides timely onward referral to post-acute rehabilitation services. A retrospective observational study from June 2023 to June 2025.

RESULTS

Data from the first two years of the implementation of the IPTS will be presented (June 2023 to June 2025). This will describe the demographics of all patients reviewed by IPTS, the mechanism of injury, and will detail the rehabilitation needs and outcomes of patients with complex rehabilitation needs. We will also describe the additional services that were required for trauma patients in the MTC, acute pain services, geriatrics, surgical intervention, and intensive care.

The IPTS has a proactive approach to rehabilitation, enabled by a full time rehabilitation consultant and multi-disciplinary trauma rehabilitation team. 100% of patients who require complex rehabilitation were assessed within 10 days, and received a timely referral to tertiary rehabilitation services.

There is a need for increased post-acute, regional and community rehabilitation, to enable patients to achieve their maximum functional potential and receive integrated trauma care throughout the continuum of their trauma recovery journey.

CONCLUSION

The impact of the IPTS demonstrates the importance of integrated rehabilitation care for patients in a major trauma centre. The inclusion of a trauma rehabilitation physician and a dedicated multi-disciplinary team as part of service ensures timely assessment of rehabilitation needs and appropriate onward referral to tertiary rehabilitation centres.

Statement of Disclosures

None

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