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Origination	03/2023	Contact	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult
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FAST Practice Management Guidelines for Blunt Trauma Patients

1. Process/Procedure Description

To develop and provide a systematic approach for use of FAST (Focus Assessment with Sonography for Trauma) in blunt trauma patients.

2. Who Should Read This Process/Procedure?

Emergency Department Attending, Emergency Department Resident, Trauma Residents, Trauma Attending.

3. Process/Procedure

Step:	Process Instructions/Description:
	The following guidelines should be used for blunt trauma patients:
	1. **All trauma patients who meet criteria for level I & II activations should undergo a FAST examination, unless it is an isolated trauma that does not include the chest or abdomen.** 2. **Level III trauma patients should be considered for a FAST examination** 3. **The FAST examination should be performed by the Emergency Medicine attending or by an Emergency Medicine resident who has complet3ed his/her ultrasound rotation.** a. **The Surgical Critical Fellow should perform the FAST exam when they are covering traumas either under the supervision of the trauma attending or the ED faculty.**

	4. **The FAST examination must be interpreted by the operating surgical team if basing emergency surgery on the examination.** 5. **If the patient is hypotensive with a positive FAST, consideration should be to take the patient to the operating room for emergency surgical intervention.** 6. **If the patient is stable with a positive FAST, CT scan should be done on an expedited basis with presence of the trauma chief or trauma attending in the CT scanner with the patient.** 7. **If the patient is stable with a negative FAST, standard work-up should proceed.** 8. **If the patient is unstable with a negative or equivocal FAST, consideration should be given to DPL if inadequate windows were obtained and there were no findings on chest or pelvic radiograph that would explain the patient's condition.** 9. The results of all FAST exam for blunt Level I & II traumas will be correlated with CT scan or operative findings.

References:

Rozycki G, Shackford S (1996). "Ultrasound, what every trauma surgeon should know". J Trauma. 40 (1): 1–4. doi:10.1097/00005373-199601000-00001. PMID 8576968

Scalea T, Rodriguez A, Chiu W, Brenneman F, Fallon W, Kato K, McKenney M, Nerlich M, Ochsner M, Yoshii H (1999). "Focused Assessment with Sonography for Trauma (FAST): results from an international consensus conference". Journal of Trauma. 46 (3): 466–72. doi:10.1097/00005373-199903000-00022. PMID 10088853.

American College of Emergency Physicians: Ultrasound in Trauma - The FAST Exam. http://www.ACEP.org/ksonoguide/FAST.html

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
VP Approval	Jessica Holladay: VP & ACNO Surg & Trauma Svcs	04/2025
Trauma Services Committee Approval	Stephanie Spain: Trauma Prgm Mgr Adult	04/2025
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Applicability

Erlanger Health - Baroness