

# TRAUMA WOUNDS IN PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS

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In current peace support operations surgical teams, sometimes, have to face a kind of tissue damage characterized by a thermodynamic etiopathogenesis combined with diagnosis and treatment requirements untraditional and completely new compared to the past. This is due to both the effect of unconventional explosive weapons and the occurrence of new tactics and new fight scenarios.

Asymmetric conflicts are responsible for new generations of complex, devastating wounds which necessarily start another chapter on the treatment of combat wounds; the main characteristic of these injuries are basically: 1. Extensive damage of soft tissues 2. Microbial colonization 3. High levels of exudate 4. Increased tendency to local infections. The surgeon must react with planning, organization, method and technology to the unpredictable and aggressive effects of improvised explosive devices (IED) on the exposed parts of human body.

Complex soft tissue trauma, in current humanitarian mission, not only are an interesting and stimulating challenge for the surgical team in the field hospital, but they also give us the chance to calibrate our medical potential in operations. Early and proper management of combat wounds is critical not only for the subsequent treatment pathway (reducing related complications and morbidity) but also for guaranteeing better functional and esthetic outcomes afterwards.