

Title:

The Gunshot: Not all Heroes Wears Capes

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Introduction:

Gunshot causes ballistic trauma due to penetrating injury which injures the part of body and internal organs that leads into massive bleeding. This can be fatal to one's life which requires emergent action.

Case:

We present a case of 37 years old gentleman who works as bodyguard, had alleged gunshot wound in KLIA while escorting. Patient was shot at the abdomen and actively bled from the side of the wound. Upon arrival, patient was delirious with blood pressure of 68/46, heart rate of 65 and oxygenation of 98% under room air. Upon examination, entry and exit points of bullet had been identified. In FAST scan, noted patient had massive free fluids at all sites in the abdomen. Patient was intubated immediately impending respiratory collapse, given boluses of 1litre of saline, analgesics, iv tranexamic acid. While resuscitating, patient also had been started with inotropes and massive transfusion protocol was activated. Surgical team already had been standby, thus able to push the patient to operation theatre within 1 hour from arrival. Patient underwent damage control laparotomy and had sustained with small bowel injury. Total estimated blood loss was about 3.5L. Patient made good progress and was discharged home after 14days of admission.

Discussion:

The extent of ballistic trauma happens according to the kinetic energy of the bullet passes through. Massive blood loss and instability of patient are expected in ballistic trauma since the high velocity of bullet which penetrates the body part causes extensive damage to the soft tissue, organs as well as injury to the blood vessels. Damage control and securing of the bleeding should be done as early as possible for better outcome of patient.

Conclusion:

As the result, early information given by MECC team prior to the arrival of patient, had led us to activate multidisciplinary team in advance which able to conceal a good prognosis for the patient. Fast, efficient and good team support from all the disciplinary able to save one's life.

Keyword:

Gunshot, ballistic trauma