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Advanced Trauma Life Support training: How useful it is

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**Abstract**

We have tried in a recently published systematic review (World Journal of Surgery 2014;38:322-9) to study the educational value of Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) courses and whether they improve survival of multiple trauma patients. This Frontier article summarizes what we have learned and reflects on future perspectives in this important area. Our recently published systematic review has shown that ATLS training is very useful from an educational point view. It significantly increased knowledge, and improved practical skills and the critical decision making process in managing multiple trauma patients. These positive changes were evident in a wide range of learners including undergraduate medical students and postgraduate residents from different subspecialties. In contrast, clear evidence that ATLS training reduces trauma death is lacking. It is obvious that it is almost impossible to perform randomized controlled trials to study the effect of ATLS courses on trauma mortality. Studying factors predicting trauma mortality is a very complex issue. Accordingly, trauma mortality does not depend solely on ATLS training but on other important

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If you don't treat trauma patients frequently, an ATLS course provides an easy method to remember for evaluation and treatment of a trauma victim.

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'Having attended many life support **courses** over the last few years, I can ...

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