

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

Traumatology 583 (GNK 583)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Health Sciences
Module credits	25.00
NQF Level	08
Programmes	MBChB
Prerequisites	BOK 480,BOK 482,GNK 481,GNK 483,GNK 484,GNK 485,GNK 486,GNK 487,GNK 385,SMO 411
Contact time	1 other contact session per week, 1 practical per week, 1.5 seminars per week, 10 lectures per week, 3 discussion classes per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Surgery
Period of presentation	Semester 1

Module content

The block consists of two modules, one practical and the other theoretical. The objective of the trauma practicals is to introduce students to clinical recognition of trauma emergencies, institution of emergency resuscitation, application of life saving and life support manoeuvres and emergency treatment of the trauma victim. Using actors/models, students are taught the application of the Advanced trauma life support (ATLS) (ABCDE) type approach to trauma.

The trauma theory comprises the introduction to the full spectrum of trauma as a disease. Epidemiology of trauma, mechanisms of wounding, including ballistics, the biological response to trauma, wound healing and complications of trauma will be taught. Emergency treatment, resuscitation and intensive care treatment of the trauma victim will be covered.

A systematic course on a thematic basis will be given to cover the major organ systems prioritised according to the ATLS type approach of life threatening, limb threatening or disfiguring injuries.

Thus, thoracic, cardiovascular, abdominal, head and neck trauma will be dealt with as potential life threatening injuries, orthopaedic as limb threatening trauma and skin injuries are mainly disfiguring. Thermal, electrical and chemical burns and hypothermia will be covered. Introduction to physical and psychological rehabilitation and nutrition of the trauma victim will be taught.

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