Trauma Society of South Africa Protocol

The Management of the Abdominal GSW Wound

GSW to the Abdomen

Indications for Laparotomy

Haemodynamically unstable

Decreased level of consciousness.

Spinal cord injury.

Acute Abdomen.

Blood in nasogastric tube.

Blood on rectal examination

High Velocity GSW

Indication for Abdominal Observation

Haemodynamically stable

Localized GSW to RUQ

Tangential GSW *confirmed on CT scan*

Fully conscious for serial examination

No spinal cord injury

No Acute Abdomen

Abdominal Observation

Serial clinical examination 4 to 6 hourly.

NPO for 24 hours.

No Antibiotics.

Monitor temperature 6 hourly.

One hourly BP, PR and RR for 6 hours

then 4-hourly.

Failure of Abdominal Observation

Pyrexia.

Worsening abdominal signs.

Elevated WCC.

Laparotomy

Successful

Trial Feed after 24- hours

Not Successful

Successful

Discharge after 72-hours