Trauma Society of South Africa Protocol

The Management of the Anterior Abdominal Stab Wound

Abdominal Stab Wound

Indications for Laparotomy

Haemodynamically unstable.

Decreased level of consciousness.

Spinal cord injury.

Acute Abdomen.

Bowel Evisceration.

Blood in nasogastric tube.

Blood on rectal examination.

Indication for Abdominal Observation

Haemodynamically stable.

Fully conscious for serial examination.

No spinal cord injury.

No Acute Abdomen.

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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.

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Laparotomy

Successful

Trial Feed after 24- hours

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Not Successful ← Worsening abdominal signs.

Successful

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Discharge after 48-hours