



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

Abdominal Vascular Injury

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Highlights:

- The highest point of the retroperitoneal hematoma associated with a perforation of the infrarenal abdominal aorta overlies the site of the perforation—the "Mt. Everest" phenomenon
- The retroperitoneal hematoma over a perforation in the infrarenal IVC often elevates the mesentery of and the ascending colon
- Patients with retroperitoneal venous injuries may be remarkably stable secondary to tamponade
- Patients with abdominal arterial injuries in the pelvis or mesentery often do not tamponade and present with hemorrhage
- Associated gastrointestinal injuries are common in patients with abdominal vascular injuries, and the sequence of repairs depends on whether hemorrhage or a hematoma is present