



AAST Acute Care Surgery Didactic Curriculum

Management of the Open Abdomen

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Highlights:

- Indications live elsewhere (Damage control)
- Three areas of focus
 - Management
 - Mitigate systemic illness / globally supportive care
 - Optimize tissue edema (in particular the mesentery and retroperitoneum)
 - Maintain some traction on the fascia toward the midline
 - Closure
 - Understand the options:
 - Primary fascial closure vs Mesh techniques vs component separation
 - Complications
 - Enteroatmospheric fistula