Lecture summaries

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5 Strategies to Improve Outcomes in Veterinary Trauma Patients

This lecture provides a practical, decision-focused framework for the initial assessment and emergency room stabilization of veterinary trauma patients by examining available evidence in human and veterinary medicine. Respiratory management, including difficult airway recognition, emergency anesthesia and intubation, thoracic trauma, and initial ventilation strategies will be discussed. Neurologic management will focus on prevention of secondary brain injury, maintenance of cerebral perfusion pressure, management of intracranial hypertension, spinal injury identification and stabilization, scoring systems, and the role of steroids. Hemodynamic stabilization, hypertonic solutions, damage-control resuscitation, blood product use, tranexamic acid, and evidence-based analgesia are integrated to guide rational, timely clinical decisions during early trauma care.

Learning goals

1. Apply evidence-based respiratory strategies during early trauma stabilization, including difficult airway management, emergency intubation, thoracic injury management, and initial lung-protective ventilation.
2. Implement neurologic management to reduce secondary brain injury, including maintenance of cerebral perfusion pressure, control of intracranial hypertension, using scoring systems, and understand the impact of steroids.
3. Assessing or suspecting spinal injury, performing neurologic assessment, immobilization and transport, and application of early imaging
4. Select appropriate hemodynamic and damage-control resuscitation strategies, including fluid choice, blood pressure targets, rational use of blood products, and use of tranexamic acid.
5. Evaluate analgesic options, including ketamine, opioids, NSAIDs, and locoregional techniques, during early trauma care.