



Key Issues & Facts

MedSTAR Trauma

September 2017

For Penetrating Trauma Outperforming 90% of Other Trauma Centers

More than 1,800 patients were brought to MedSTAR last year suffering from a traumatic injury caused by an accident or violent incident. And these patients benefitted from the highly regarded skill and expertise of our Trauma Team, which earns Level 1 Trauma Center verification year after year after exhaustive reviews by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

The Trauma Team in Action: When a trauma patient is on the way, a multidisciplinary team is called to MedSTAR for immediate response. Depending on the severity of the patient's reported condition, up to 12 clinicians plus members of our Spiritual Care and Public Safety departments could arrive to provide care and support. In the case of a "Code Yellow," the highest level of trauma team activation, the clinical group could include the trauma surgeon on-call, an Emergency Department (ED) physician, several surgical and ED residents, several trauma nurses, and a radiology technician.

MedSTAR follows strict systems and processes to ensure the best possible patient outcomes. Each team member has a well-defined role and they move through them very quickly. First, before the patient arrives, the surgical resident provides a situation overview. Second, the team then conducts round-robin introductions, stating their names and departments. Their department signifies their area of responsibility in providing care. The ED physician and residents, for example, are responsible for assessing and maintaining the patient's airway. The lead nurse is responsible for checking and calling out vital signs. Finally, when the patient arrives, team members take their pre-assigned places around the patient, knowing exactly who does what. Each bay is also organized exactly the same way, so that providers know where to find the supplies and equipment they need.

The Outcomes: This coordinated system has proven very effective. Not only does MedSTAR earn Level 1 verification from ACS, we voluntarily provide extensive data each year to its Trauma Quality Improvement Program. Through a risk-adjustment process developed by ACS, we benchmark our outcomes against other trauma centers.

- In the category of penetrating trauma, we perform in the top decile of American trauma centers—outperforming 90% of other programs.
- Being treated at MWHC confers a nearly 40% reduction in odds of death compared with other U.S. trauma centers.

Led by Jack Sava, MD, and supported by an outstanding group of trauma surgeons, nurses and other specialists, the MedSTAR Trauma team is on a continuous drive to excellence, living our patient-first commitment day in and day out.

Photo: Representatives of the more than 100 providers and associates from trauma, orthopaedic surgery, the operating room, anesthesiology, critical care, nursing and the blood bank who recently provided life-saving care for Officer Crystal Griner and Rep. Steve Scalise after a mass shooting in Virginia.



MedStar Washington
Hospital Center