

War Wounds of the Lungs Treated in Rama, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ante Petricevic, Nenad Ilic, Zeljko Mimica, Mirko Petricevic, Jozo Ivancevic
Department of Surgery, Split University Hospital, Split, Croatia

Aim. Presentation of our experience in the treatment of war wounds of the lungs at the Rama War Hospital from April 1, 1992, to February 1, 1994.

Methods. Retrospective analysis of clinical and surgical data on patients with war injury to the lungs.

Results. Of 254 patients undergoing surgical operations, 64 (25.2%) had injuries to the lungs. Penetrating wounds were found in 49 (76.6%), and nonpenetrating wounds in 15 (23.4%) patients. Wounds caused by explosions were most frequent (N=40; 62.5%), followed by gunshot wounds (N=23, 35.9%). Other type of injuries were observed in only one (1.6%) patient. There were 60 men (93.8%) and four women (6.2%). Thoracotomy alone or in combination with phrenolaparotomy was performed in 21 (32.8%) patients. In the remaining 43 (67.2%) patients, primary surgical treatment of the wound with (N=27; 42.2%) or without (N=16; 25.0%) drainage was applied. Fatal outcome was recorded in three (4.7%) patients. The rest of 61 (95.3%) patients were discharged as recovered or improved, and referred to rehabilitation centers or other surgical institutions.

Conclusion. Thoracic drainage is a crucial therapeutic procedure in the treatment of war wounds of the lungs, along with anti-shock measures and prevention of complications.

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Correspondence to:

Dr. Ante Petricevic
Department of Surgery
Split University Hospital
Spinciceva 1
21000 Split
Croatia