ROTEM for Trauma

The Basics

* Trauma-induced coagulopathies are a significant cause of mortality in trauma patients. 25-35% of severely injured trauma pt's have already developed a TIC prior to arriving in the ED which confers significant mortality.
* Standard lab tests were developed for monitoring therapeutic anticoagulation, not expeditious identification of trauma-related coagulation defects. They do not reflect clot quality or stability and they cannot be used to monitor coagulopathy
* ROTEM is a Viscoelastic Hemostatic Assay which measures the global properties of whole-blood clot formation in real time. It is a rapid point-of-care test that allows for dynamic monitoring and guides focused treatments.
* Interpreting ROTEM can be complicated but is made simpler by asking the three questions
	+ How fast?
	+ How strong?
	+ How long?
* Although evidence for There is growing evidence that application of ROTEM‐guided transfusion strategies may reduce the need for blood products and improve morbidity in patients with bleeding.

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