

# Traumatic Cardiac Arrest

Major Trauma Patient in confirmed arrest or peri-arrest

Yes ↓

Is there a likely medical cause?

Yes ↘

Continue as per ALS algorithm

No ↓

Continue ALS whilst addressing

**H**

Hypovolaemia

Control external haemorrhage  
 Splint pelvis / fractures  
 IV/IO fluid / blood

**O**

Oxygenation

Basic/advanced airway management  
 Maximise oxygenation

**T**

Tension  
 Tamponade

Decompress chest if clinical suspicion  
 Consider immediate thoracotomy if penetrating trauma to chest or epigastrium or as per 'Thoracotomy' prompt card

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Yes ↙

**ROSC**

No ↘

**Further actions**

- Transfer to theatre or ITU
- CT scan
- Correct coagulopathies
- Keep warm
- Consider vasopressors in head injury

**Decision to stop resuscitation**

- Prolonged duration of cardiac arrest
- Lack of response to life saving interventions
- Persistently low ET<sub>CO</sub><sub>2</sub>
- Cardiac standstill on US