

# Summary



Pediatric trauma cases are the most difficult for any nurse to deal with alongside the doctor. They are emotional, clinically challenging, motivating and make us question our ability to recognize the aspects of an injured child. Pediatric trauma affects all of us. A report from the CDC in 2008 found in part: over 12, 000 children die each year from an accident. Travel injuries were most prevalent in causing death. Over 9 million children visit an emergency department each year. Falls are the most common cause of injuries that are not fatal. Pediatric trauma causes enormous psychological tolls on patients, parents and families alike. This also is true for the nurses who handle such cases. In cases of posttraumatic and acute stress disorder, nurses need more education. Most hospitals do not have a formal screening process, any consensus guidelines, a lack of advanced information, lack of processes to investigate and distribute pediatric best practices and develop research with nurses and their colleagues. Whether from reading about a teen involved in a motor vehicle accident, trying to calculate an infant drug dose, wondering if we are trained well enough and moving forward and paving the way for the doctors and nurses that are upcoming, we advocate for those who cannot do it themselves. Regardless of whether in a pediatric level 1 or a rural hospital, it is imperative that we strive to find new information and drive changes in the hospital society. We will move forward and create new infrastructures, develop and discover new and better practices, and create outreach with professional colleagues. We have made headway in the impact of pediatric outcomes, but there is still an extensive body of work left to do. There are confounding issues facing the pediatric trauma patient population. The Society of Trauma Nurses prides itself on being one of the strongest, most successful special interest groups that is

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committed to the pediatric trauma issue. Harkins, Deborah (July/Sept. 2009). “ President’s Message: Pediatric Trauma in the Spotlight”. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*. Vol. 16, No. 3, p 123 - 125. Print.