

Vascular Trauma in Urban Warfare: A Multicenter Analysis During the Swords of Iron War

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Introduction

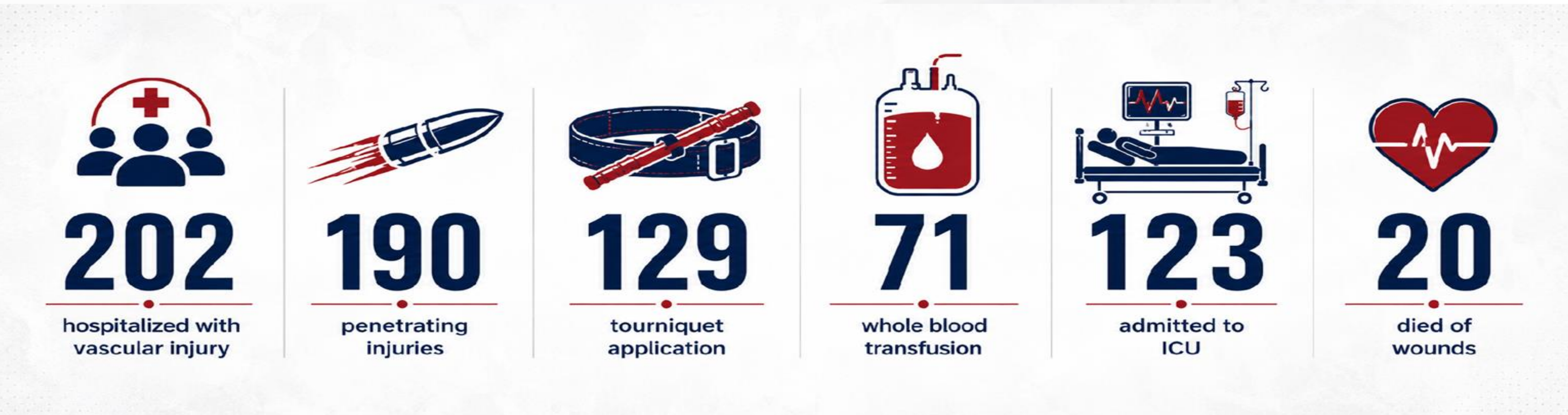
Vascular injury as a major cause of preventable combat mortality and disability.
Distinctive features of the Swords of Iron War: urban combat, penetrating/explosive mechanisms and rapid evacuation.
we aim to characterize truncal and extremity vascular injuries and their clinical burden.

Methods

An ongoing retrospective multicenter cohort.
IDF casualties injured between October 27, 2023 - July 31, 2025
Admitted to 11 civilian trauma centers.
Vascular injuries identified by AIS codes.
Data are being collected from the IDF trauma registry, the Israeli National Trauma Registry and hospital records.
Outcomes include vascular complications, re-interventions, limb salvage, mortality and follow-up imaging.

Results

Among 6,740 injured personnel, 202 casualties were hospitalized with vascular injuries, predominantly penetrating (94%). Vascular injury distribution included lower extremities (89, 44%), truncal vessels (61, 30%), upper extremities (40, 20%), and combined patterns (12, 6%).
Fifty casualties (25%) were severely injured (ISS 16-24) and 74 (37%) were critically injured (ISS ≥25). Forty-two casualties (21%) underwent emergency laparotomy or thoracotomy within 1 hour of hospital arrival and 61% were admitted to the ICU.



Conclusions

The study will provide a comprehensive characterization of vascular trauma. A high-acuity cohort with substantial burden. Findings may inform clinical guidelines on hemorrhage control, damage control resuscitation and vascular trauma management strategies.



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