

Oberstarzt Prof. Dr. H. P. Becker

Oberstabsarzt A. Faltlhauser

Oberstorzt Dr. A. Thomas

"Stop the Bleeding"

The first International Miltranet (Military Trauma Network) Congress was held in Koblenz from May 11th to 13th, 2006. The topic "Stop the Bleeding" brought together experts in the field of bleeding management in military trauma care from 20 different countries. Under the auspices of the German Society for Military Medicine and Pharmacy (Deutsche Gesell-schaft für Wehrmedizin und Wehrpharmazie), the participants of the meeting very effectively discussed the emerging new strategies and technologies on patients with trauma and massive haemorrhage. Prehospital and emergency room management, surgical intensive care and life saving surgery were the key points of the different sessions. Even though the actual war statistics show a decrease in the number of acute deaths on the battlefields, acute bleeding stays the leading cause for the death of soldiers in a mission. Therefore, every effort possible has to be made to increase the number of survivors. The motto "Save One More" inaugurated by Colonel David Burris, USA, is certainly an excellent motivation for active military doctors. Our history makes very clear that military medicine has always influenced civilian medical life. On the other hand, now civilian trauma research and organisation give back some of the recent advances in treating life-threatening injuries to the military world. This exchange back and forth was one of the highlights of the meeting and should lead the organizers of the future.

The idea of a military trauma network should encourage for future activities in the field. As the final session the meeting showed, many of the topics are not yet discussed to the end. Research projects and new strategies are to be installed, perhaps as interdisciplinary or as multinational work. We will perform the next meeting either in Koblenz or in another place. It is worthy to continue these first efforts and make MILTRANET an international platform.

This special issue of the "WEHRMEDIZINISCHE MONATS-SCHRIFT" updates a few aspects of the congress and represents the current knowledge in some areas of bleeding management. We are greatly indebted to the authors for contributing. Being all undisputed leaders in trauma surgery or other parts of medicine with many commitments, yet they found the time to meet scheduled deadlines and complete the necessary paper work. Due to different reasons in some countries, several authors could not deliver their papers on time. They will be published in one of the next issues. We are thankful as well to all the supporters of the congress. Without them, the print of this special issue would not have been possible.

H. P. Becker A. Faltlhauser A. Thomas Bundeswehrzentralkrankenhaus KOBLENZ

Management of bleeding injuries has been part of medicine from its very origins and will play a significant role in the future.

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

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Titelbild: Dilutional Coagulopathy vs. Hyperfibinolysis: (S. 303, Fig. 3; Fig. 6; Fig. 7; Fig. 8)

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