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The role of rotation thromboelastometry in early prediction of massive transfusion

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Abstract: **INTRODUCTION::** Early prediction of massive transfusion (MT) is critical in the management of severely injured trauma patients. Variables available early after injury including physiologic, laboratory, and rotation thromboelastometric (ROTEM) parameters were evaluated as predictors for the need of MT. **METHODS::** After Institutional Review Board approval, we retrospectively reviewed a cohort of severely injured trauma patients (Injury Severity Score 16) admitted to a Level I trauma center with available ROTEM measurements on hospital admission during a 1-year study period. Patients with isolated head injury (Abbreviated Injury Scale head 3 and Abbreviated Injury Scale chest, abdomen, and extremity <3) and patients with a penetrating mechanism of injury were excluded. Patients who received a MT (10 units packed red blood cell within 24 hours of admission) were compared with patients who did not. Variables independently associated with MT were identified using stepwise logistic regression. **RESULTS::** A total of 53 patients met inclusion criteria. Of these, 18 patients (34.0%) received a MT and 35 patients (66.0%) did not. Massively transfused patients had significantly lower baseline hemoglobin values (7.9 g/dL \pm 0.4 g/dL vs. 11.4 g/dL \pm 0.4 g/dL; $p < 0.001$) and a trend toward higher lactate (4.8 mmol/L \pm 0.8 mmol/L vs. 3.0 mmol/L \pm 0.3 mmol/L; $p = 0.056$) and base deficit values (5.9 mmol/L \pm 1.1 mmol/L vs. 3.6 mmol/L \pm 0.6 mmol/L; $p = 0.052$). Mean international normalized ratio (1.46 \pm 0.07 vs. 1.22 \pm 0.05; $p = 0.001$) and partial thromboplastin times (42.4 seconds \pm 5.0 seconds vs. 29.7 seconds \pm 1.8 seconds; $p < 0.001$) were significantly higher in MT patients. Patients receiving a MT had significantly altered ROTEM values on admission compared with non-MT patients. An increase in the clot formation time (471.3 seconds \pm 169.9 seconds vs. 178.1 seconds \pm 19.9 seconds; $p = 0.001$), a shortening of the maximum clot firmness (37.5 mm \pm 2.9 mm vs. 50.7 mm \pm 1.4 mm; $p < 0.001$), and a shortening of the clot amplitude at all time points (10/20/30 minutes) were observed in massively transfused trauma patients. Variables independently associated with MT included a hemoglobin level < 10 g/dL and an abnormal maximum clot firmness value (area under the receiver operator characteristic curve: 0.831 [95% confidence interval: 0.719-0.942; $p < 0.001$]). **CONCLUSION::** Hemoglobin < 10 g/dL and an abnormal maximum cloth firmness measured by rotation thromboelastometry on admission reliably predict the need for MT. Prospective validation of the effectiveness of thromboelastometry to guide the transfusion practice after trauma is warranted.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Early prediction of massive transfusion (MT) is critical in the management of severely injured trauma patients. Variables available early after injury including physiologic, laboratory and rotation thromboelastometric (ROTEM[®]) parameters were evaluated as predictors for the need of MT.

Methods: After IRB approval, we retrospectively reviewed a cohort of severely injured trauma patients (ISS ≥ 16) admitted to a level 1 trauma center with available ROTEM[®] measurements on hospital admission during a 1-year study period. Patients with isolated head injury [Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) head ≥ 3 and AIS chest, abdomen, and extremity < 3] and patients with a penetrating mechanism of injury were excluded. Patients who received a MT (≥ 10 units PRBC within 24 hours of admission) were compared with patients who did not. Variables independently associated with MT were identified using stepwise logistic regression.

Results: A total of 53 patients met inclusion criteria. Of these, 18 patients (34.0%) received a MT and 35 patients (66.0%) did not. Massively transfused patients had significantly lower baseline hemoglobin values (7.9 ± 0.4 vs. 11.4 ± 0.4 g/dL; $p < 0.001$) and a trend towards higher lactate (4.8 ± 0.8 vs. 3.0 ± 0.3 mmol/L; $p = 0.056$) and base deficit values (5.9 ± 1.1 vs. 3.6 ± 0.6 mmol/L; $p = 0.052$). Mean INR (1.46 ± 0.07 vs. 1.22 ± 0.05 ; $p = 0.001$) and partial thromboplastin times (42.4 ± 5.0 vs. 29.7 ± 1.8 sec; $p < 0.001$) were significantly higher in MT patients. Patients receiving a MT had significantly altered ROTEM[®] values on admission compared to non-MT patients. An increase in the clot formation time (471.3 ± 169.9 vs. 178.1 ± 19.9 sec; $p = 0.001$), a shortening of the

maximum clot firmness (37.5 ± 2.9 vs. 50.7 ± 1.4 mm; $p < 0.001$), and a shortening of the clot amplitude at all time-points (10/20/30 minutes) were observed in massively transfused trauma patients. Variables independently associated with MT included a hemoglobin level ≤ 10 g/dL and an abnormal maximum clot firmness value [area under the ROC curve: 0.831 (95% CI: 0.719 – 0.942; $p < 0.001$)].

Conclusion: Hemoglobin ≤ 10 g/dL and an abnormal maximum cloth firmness measured by rotation thromboelastometry on admission reliably predict the need for massive transfusion. Prospective validation of the effectiveness of thromboelastometry to guide the transfusion practice following trauma is warranted.

Key words: *massive transfusion, thromboelastometry, ROTEM[®], thromboelastography, TEG[®], predictor*

Original Scientific Article

The Role of Rotation Thromboelastometry in Early Prediction of Massive Transfusion

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INTRODUCTION

Massive Traumatic hemorrhage following injury results in coagulopathy, which subsequently leads to further blood loss. Several mechanisms including tissue injury, hemodilution, hypothermia, acidosis, and inflammation are postulated to ~~be the main causes of~~ predispose for traumatic coagulopathy.¹⁻³ A recent report by Brohi and colleagues⁴, however, suggested an alternative coagulopathy pathway following major trauma independent of clotting-factor deficiency. ~~Early traumatic coagulopathy occurred exclusively in the setting of tissue hypoperfusion resulting in activation of the thrombomodulin-protein C system, higher tPA levels, and fibrinolysis.~~ While further investigations to fully comprehend pathways of acute coagulopathy are warranted, coagulation abnormalities have been demonstrated to be associated with poor outcomes.^{1, 5, 6} Additionally, it has been observed that coagulopathy occurring in the early posttraumatic phase correlates closely with massive transfusion (MT) requirement.^{1, 5, 7} After increasing number of studies demonstrating improved outcomes ~~pertinent~~ due to aggressive plasma and platelet replacements in patients requiring MT⁸⁻¹⁰, many trauma centers have instituted massive transfusion protocols.¹¹⁻¹⁵ Most MT protocols, however, are triggered by physicians ~~only after~~ when ~~clinical suspicion of a significant~~ large blood loss ~~is imminent~~, or ~~when~~ transfusion of massive amounts of packed red cells has already been established.

Therefore, ~~Several~~ scoring systems have recently been proposed to predict the need for MT.¹⁶⁻²¹ However, the vast majority of ~~such~~ suggested algorithms require time-consuming laboratory work-up, injury severity calculations, or mathematical computations.

Relatively scant ~~little~~ is the documented pertinent to ~~about~~ point-of-care devices,

such as thromboelastography (TEG[®]) and rotation thromboelastometry (ROTEM[®]), as predictors of transfusion requirement after injury.²²⁻²⁴ TEG[®] and ROTEM[®] may overcome several limitations of routine coagulation tests and may further provide useful information on platelet function.²⁵⁻²⁷ Subsequent transfusion algorithms based on point-of-care assays have been promising resulting in reduced transfusion requirements in cardiac^{28, 29} and hepatic^{30, 31} surgery.

The purpose of the present study was to determine the role of ROTEM[®] as the predictor of MT following trauma. In addition to the ROTEM[®] values, physiologic and laboratory variables readily available early after injury were also evaluated as predictors of MT.

METHODS

After approval by the Institutional Review Board, we retrospectively reviewed a cohort of severely injured trauma patients admitted to the Division of Trauma Surgery of the University Hospital of Zurich, a referral trauma center, from January through December 2006. The inclusion criteria were an Injury Severity Score (ISS) > 16 and available ROTEM[®] measurements on hospital admission. Patients with isolated head injury [Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS) head ≥ 3 and AIS chest, abdomen, and extremity <3] (n=48) and patients with a penetrating mechanism of injury (n=19) were excluded. A MT was defined as a transfusion of 10 or more packed red blood cell (PRBC) units during the initial 24 hours after admission.

Demographic and clinical information collected included age, gender, blood pressure on admission, Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score on admission, ISS, and AIS for each body region (head, chest, abdomen, extremity). Continuous variables were converted into dichotomous variables using clinically relevant cut-points (age ≥ 55 years, systolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg, GCS ≤ 8 , ISS ≥ 25 , AIS ≥ 3). All hemoglobin values, base deficit, lactate, pH values, platelet counts, international normalized ratio (INR) values, and partial thromboplastin times (PTT) obtained on admission were also accrued. The number of PRBC, fresh frozen plasma (FFP), and platelet units transfused were abstracted.

Point-of-care Devices

TEG[®] and ROTEM[®] provide a real-time graphic assessment of clot formation and subsequent lysis. Blood is incubated at 37°C in a heated cup. Within this cup is

suspended a pin connected to a detector system. This is a torsion wire in case of TEG[®] and an optical detector in ROTEM[®]. The cup and pin are oscillated relative to each other. The movement is initiated from either the cup (TEG[®]) or the pin (ROTEM[®]). As fibrin forms between the cup and pin the transmitted rotation from the cup to pin (TEG[®]) or impedance of the rotation of the pin (ROTEM[®]) is detected at the pin and a trace is generated.²⁵

During the study period, rotation thromboelastometry measurements were obtained at the discretion of the attending physician in severely injured patients. Blood samples were drawn and analyzed in a ROTEM[®] analyzer [Pentapharm GmbH (Munich, Germany)] within 15 minutes of admission. The ROTEM[®] coagulation analyzer and the parameters of thromboelastometry have been described elsewhere.³² Briefly, ROTEM[®] measurements graphically display the changes in viscoelasticity at all stages of the developing and resolving clot. In the ROTEM[®] analyzer, coagulation is mildly activated either with ellagic acid (INTEM test) or tissue factor from rabbit brain (EXTEM test). Both, the INTEM as well as the EXTEM test were performed in the study cohort. The test time for ROTEM[®] is typically 15 to 20 minutes. ROTEM[®] parameters analyzed in this study included the time until initial fibrin formation [clotting time (CT)], the kinetics of fibrin formation and clot development [clot formation time (CFT) and the alpha angle], the stability of the fibrin clot at various time-points [amplitude of the clot at 10 minutes (A10), at 20 minutes (A20), and at 30 minutes (A30)] and the ultimate strength and stability of the fibrin clot [maximum clot firmness (MCF)]. The reference ranges utilized for ROTEM[®] parameters were previously described by Lang and colleagues.³²

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The demographic and clinical characteristics between massively and non-massively transfused trauma patients were evaluated using bivariate analysis. Laboratory parameters including coagulation markers, base deficit, lactate and ROTEM[®] parameters were also compared between the two cohorts. The *p* values for categorical variables were derived from the Chi-square test or 2-sided Fisher's exact test and for continuous variables the Mann-Whitney test was deployed.

To identify risk factors independently associated with the need for a MT, a stepwise logistic regression was utilized and risk factors from the bivariate analysis with a *p* value <0.2 were included in the model. The area under the receiver operator characteristic (ROC) curve was constructed to evaluate the model's discriminating power to predict MT.

Values are reported as mean \pm standard error of the mean (SEM) for continuous variables and as percentages for categorical variables. All analyses were performed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences version 12.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL).

RESULTS

During the 1-year study period, 53 patients met inclusion criteria. Of these, 18 patients (34.0%) received a MT and 35 patients (66.0%) did not. The average age of these patients was 39.6 ± 2.5 years and the mean ISS was 31.1 ± 1.7 . Detailed demographic data, injury characteristics and major surgical procedures of the study groups are depicted in Table 1. Severe traumatic brain injury (AIS head ≥ 3) was present in 64.2%. The predominant intracranial injuries included intraparenchymal hematoma (28.3%), subdural hematoma (24.5%), subarachnoid hemorrhage (20.8%), and epidural hematoma (17.0%). Survival to discharge was 61% in the MT group and 66% in the non-MT group ($p=0.741$), respectively.

Patients in the MT group received on average 22.3 ± 3.9 units PRBC during the initial 24 hours of admission compared to 2.7 ± 0.5 units in the non-MT group ($p<0.001$). Likewise, the transfusion rates of FFP (16.4 ± 3.0 vs. 1.9 ± 0.5 units; $p<0.001$) and platelets (14.3 ± 3.0 vs. 0.8 ± 0.4 units; $p<0.001$) were significantly higher in the MT group compared to their non-MT counterparts. A detailed description of the blood components ~~utilized for resuscitation~~ transfused within different time frames of the initial 24 hours is provided in Table 2.

Table 3 depicts admission laboratory values comparing the MT and non-MT ~~group cohorts~~. Massively transfused patients experienced significantly lower baseline hemoglobin values and an obvious ~~strong~~ trend towards higher lactate and base deficit values. Mean INR and partial thromboplastin times were significantly higher in the MT

patients. Additionally, a trend towards lower platelet counts in the MT group was observed.

Patients receiving a MT had significantly different values in almost all ROTEM[®] tests on admission compared to non-MT patients (Table 4). A significant increase in the CFT, a shortening of the MCF and a shortening of the clot amplitude at all time-points (A10, A20, A30) were observed in massively transfused trauma patients (Table 4).

Bivariate analysis was performed to identify risk factors associated with the need for MT (Figure 1). The results of the stepwise logistic regression analysis are presented in Table 5. Variables independently associated with the need for MT included a hemoglobin level ≤ 10 g/dL and an abnormal INTEM MCF value. Using these two factors as a predictive model, the area under the ROC curve was 0.831 (95% CI: 0.719 – 0.942; $p < 0.001$). Using the INTEM MCF as a single variable to predict MT revealed an area under the ROC curve of 0.824 (95% CI: 0.708 - 0.941; $p < 0.001$).

DISCUSSION

Point-of-care devices have been ~~utilized~~ ~~for many years~~ to guide effective blood component and drug administration during major surgery. Numerous studies, the majority of those performed in patients undergoing liver^{30,31} or cardiac^{28,29} surgery, ~~noted~~ ~~reported~~ a reduction in transfusion requirement and ~~subsequent~~ mortality when transfusion therapy was based on TEG[®]/ROTEM[®] results as compared to therapy guided by conventional coagulation markers. Recently, in a before-after study, Johansson et al.³³ ~~reported the effect~~ ~~a reduction of~~ mortality ~~using~~ point-of-care guided transfusion therapy in massively bleeding patients, 21% of those being trauma patients. In this examination, ~~P~~patients treated according to the TEG[®] results had a significantly lower 30-day mortality as compared to controls (20% vs. 32%).

While the beneficial value of point-of-care devices to tailor blood component ~~requirements~~ ~~therapy~~ ~~during transfusion therapy~~ has been ~~previously~~ shown, the goal of the present study was to examine the role of ROTEM[®] in the ~~very early~~ prediction of MT ~~in trauma patients~~ ~~following trauma~~. One of the earliest attempts to evaluate the usefulness of point-of-care assays in the assessment of the coagulation status in trauma victims was ~~performed~~ ~~conducted~~ by Kaufmann et al. in 1997.²² In their study, including 69 blunt trauma patients, 65% demonstrated hypercoagulability upon hospital arrival whereas only 10% were hypocoagulable. Of the hypocoagulable patients, 86% received blood products within the first 24 hours, whereas only 4% of the hypercoagulable patients, and none of the patients with completely normal TEG[®] parameters required transfusion within the first 24 hours. A hypocoagulable TEG[®] was associated with increased ISS and only ISS and TEG[®] were predictive of transfusion requirements within

the first 24 hours. ~~Nevertheless~~ However, the vast majority of patients in that study did not receive a MT. In patients sustaining penetrating insults, Plotkin et al.²³ demonstrated that the maximum clot amplitude significantly correlated with the total amount of blood products used within the initial 24 hours. Conventional coagulation variables, such as INR, prothrombin time and partial thromboplastin time, discriminated hypo- from normo- /hypercoagulopathic patients, but did not predict transfusion requirements. Likewise, in Martini's swine model³⁴, TEG[®] appeared to be ~~better~~ superior in detecting mechanisms associated with coagulopathy induced by hypothermia and hemorrhage than conventional coagulation markers.

In the present examination, we evaluated several physiologic, laboratory as well as ROTEM[®] variables and their ability to predict the need for MT. ROTEM[®] parameters on admission and, in particular the INTEM channel, discriminated significantly the massively transfused from the non-massively transfused ~~blunt~~ trauma patients. Additionally, the maximum cloth firmness (INTEM MCF) in combination with a low hemoglobin value (≤ 10 g/dL) ~~was proved to be~~ independently associated with the need for MT (area under the ROC curve: 0.824) and is in ~~this regard comparable to~~ those agreement with models ~~already~~ published in the literature.^{7, 16-20} Both variables are promptly available in the resuscitation bay. The hemoglobin values can be measured in a point-of-care device within minutes. Likewise, ROTEM[®] can be conducted rapidly in the emergency department with readily available results providing a wide range of ~~information~~ data on the patient's coagulation status.³⁵

Although this is one of the first studies examining the role of ROTEM[®] in the prediction of MT, there are several limitations, the most important being the retrospective

nature of the data analysis. Evaluation of the coagulation status was performed in severely injured patients at the discretion of the attending physician, and may therefore have resulted in a selection bias. Data on fibrinolysis, guiding transfusion practice in both ROTEM³⁶ and TEG studies²⁴, was not available for the current analysis. Lastly, our study conclusions are limited by the small sample size and the wide variety of injury patterns included. Almost two thirds of our study cohort suffered severe head injuries, a patient population in particularly prone to be at high risk for developing coagulopathy, however, pathways of coagulation abnormalities in head injured patients are likely to be very different to those of suffering torso trauma.³⁷⁻³⁹

CONCLUSION

Hemoglobin ≤ 10 g/dL and an abnormal maximum cloth firmness measured by rotation thromboelastometry on admission reliably predict the need for massive transfusion. Further pProspective studies to validate validation of the effectiveness of thromboelastometry to guide the transfusion management practice in trauma patients following trauma isare warranted.

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Table 1. Demographic and Clinical Injury Characteristics Comparing the Massive and Non-Massive Transfusion Group

	All Patients (n=53)	MT (n=18)	Non-MT (n=35)	<i>p</i> Value
Age (years), mean \pm SEM	39.6 \pm 2.5	42.1 \pm 4.2	38.3 \pm 3.1	0.447
Age \geq 55 years	22.6% (12/53)	27.8% (5/18)	20.0% (7/35)	0.730
Male	75.5% (40/53)	61.1% (11/18)	82.9% (29/35)	0.101
GCS \leq 8	78.8% (41/52)	76.5% (13/17)	80.0% (28/35)	1.000
SBP < 90 mmHg	19.2% (10/52)	35.3% (6/17)	11.4% (4/35)	0.062
Heart rate > 110/min	15.4% (8/52)	17.6% (3/17)	14.3% (5/35)	1.000
ISS, mean \pm SEM	31.1 \pm 1.7	37.1 \pm 3.2	28.0 \pm 1.8	0.012
ISS \geq 25	66.0% (35/53)	77.8% (14/18)	60.0% (21/35)	0.196
Head AIS \geq 3	64.2% (34/53)	50.0% (9/18)	71.4% (25/35)	0.123
Chest AIS \geq 3	62.3% (33/53)	66.7% (12/18)	60.0% (21/35)	0.635
Abdomen AIS \geq 3	43.4% (23/53)	77.8% (14/18)	25.7% (9/35)	<0.001
Extremity AIS \geq 3	26.4% (14/53)	44.4% (8/18)	17.1% (6/35)	0.049
Surgical Procedures on Admission				
Craniotomy / Craniectomy	24.5% (13/53)	22.2% (4/18)	25.7% (9/35)	1.000
Thoracotomy / Sternotomy	11.3% (6/53)	27.8% (5/18)	2.9% (1/35)	0.014
Laparotomy	15.1% (8/53)	38.9% (7/18)	2.9% (1/35)	0.001
Pelvic Clamp / External Fixator	9.4% (5/53)	27.8% (5/18)	0% (0/35)	0.003
External Fixator Extremity	11.3% (6/53)	22.2% (4/18)	5.7% (2/35)	0.164

Abbreviations: MT, Massive Transfusion; GCS, Glasgow Coma Scale; SBP, systolic blood pressure; ISS, Injury Severity Score; SEM, standard error of the mean; AIS, Abbreviated Injury Scale.

Table 2. Blood Component Summary for Different Time Frames within the First 24 Hours

	Total (n=53)	MT (n=18)	Non-MT (n=35)	<i>p</i> Value
PRBC (Units)				
0 – 6 hrs	6.9 ± 1.5	17.1 ± 3.2	1.7 ± 0.4	<0.001
6 – 12 hrs	1.4 ± 0.4	3.1 ± 1.0	0.5 ± 0.2	0.002
12 – 24 hrs	1.1 ± 0.3	2.1 ± 0.9	0.6 ± 0.3	0.064
FFP (Units)				
0 – 6 hrs	5.0 ± 1.0	12.1 ± 2.2	1.3 ± 0.3	<0.001
6 – 12 hrs	1.0 ± 0.3	2.4 ± 0.9	0.2 ± 0.1	0.005
12 – 24 hrs	0.9 ± 0.3	1.9 ± 0.8	0.4 ± 0.2	0.043
PLT (Units)				
0 – 6 hrs	3.2 ± 0.9	9.0 ± 2.1	0.3 ± 0.2	<0.001
6 – 12 hrs	1.1 ± 0.5	2.8 ± 1.3	0.2 ± 0.2	0.007
12 – 24 hrs	1.1 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 1.0	0.3 ± 0.2	0.009
FFP:PRBC ratio at 24 hrs	0.49 ± 0.08	0.76 ± 0.07	0.35 ± 0.11	<0.001
PLT:PRBC ratio at 24 hrs	0.28 ± 0.06	0.63 ± 0.11	0.10 ± 0.05	<0.001

Values are expressed as Mean ± SEM

Abbreviations: MT, Massive Transfusion; PRBC, Packed Red Blood Cells; FFP, Fresh Frozen Plasma; PLT, Platelets; SEM, Standard Error of the Mean

Table 3. Admission Laboratory Values Comparing the Massive and Non-Massive Transfusion Group

	All Patients (n=53)	MT (n=18)	Non-MT (n=35)	<i>p</i> Value
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	10.2 ± 0.4	7.9 ± 0.4	11.4 ± 0.4	<0.001
Hematocrit (%)	31.5 ± 1.2	24.2 ± 1.3	35.1 ± 1.2	<0.001
Lactate (mmol/L)	3.6 ± 0.4	4.8 ± 0.8	3.0 ± 0.3	0.056
Base Deficit (mmol/L)	4.4 ± 0.6	5.9 ± 1.1	3.6 ± 0.6	0.052
pH	7.29 ± 0.02	7.24 ± 0.04	7.31 ± 0.01	0.301
INR	1.30 ± 0.04	1.46 ± 0.07	1.22 ± 0.05	0.001
PTT (sec)	34.1 ± 2.2	42.4 ± 5.0	29.7 ± 1.8	<0.001
PLT (x10 ³)	170.0 ± 8.4	147.9 ± 17.4	181.4 ± 8.7	0.074

Values are expressed as Mean ± SEM

Abbreviations: MT, Massive Transfusion; SEM, Standard Error of the Mean; INR, International Normalized Ratio; PTT, Prothrombin Time; PLT, Platelets

Table 4. Rotation Thromboelastography Parameters in the Massive and Non-Massive Transfusion Group

	Normal Ranges³²	All Patients (n=53)	MT (n=18)	Non-MT (n=35)	p Value
<i>EXTEM</i>					
CT (sec)	38-79	115.8 ± 11.1	107.9 ± 10.1	120.0 ± 16.2	0.583
CFT (sec)	34-159	284.0 ± 52.0	434.2 ± 136.7	201.7 ± 21.5	0.009
α angle	63-83	54.2 ± 2.0	49.8 ± 2.5	56.6 ± 2.6	0.044
A10 (mm)	43-65	34.7 ± 1.9	29.9 ± 2.4	37.2 ± 2.5	0.032
A20 (mm)	50-71	41.3 ± 2.1	36.9 ± 3.0	43.6 ± 2.7	0.054
A30 (mm)	50-69	43.8 ± 2.1	38.6 ± 3.6	46.3 ± 2.4	0.051
MCF (mm)	50-72	43.4 ± 2.0	39.3 ± 2.7	45.5 ± 2.6	0.041
<i>INTEM</i>					
CT (sec)	100-240	239.7 ± 32.7	232.2 ± 19.2	243.3 ± 48.0	0.050
CFT (sec)	30-110	267.9 ± 56.1	471.3 ± 169.9	178.1 ± 19.9	0.001
α angle	70-83	57.4 ± 1.9	48.5 ± 3.2	61.9 ± 2.0	0.001
A10 (mm)	44-66	36.8 ± 1.6	28.6 ± 2.4	40.9 ± 1.7	<0.001
A20 (mm)	50-71	44.3 ± 1.7	35.7 ± 3.3	48.3 ± 1.6	0.001
A30 (mm)	57-72	46.9 ± 1.5	39.8 ± 2.7	50.0 ± 1.5	0.002
MCF (mm)	50-72	46.3 ± 1.6	37.5 ± 2.9	50.7 ± 1.4	<0.001

Values are expressed as Mean ± SEM

Abbreviations: MT, Massive Transfusion; CT, Clotting Time; CFT, Clot Formation Time; A10/20/30, Clot Firmness 10/20/30 Minutes after CT; MCF, Maximum Clot Firmness

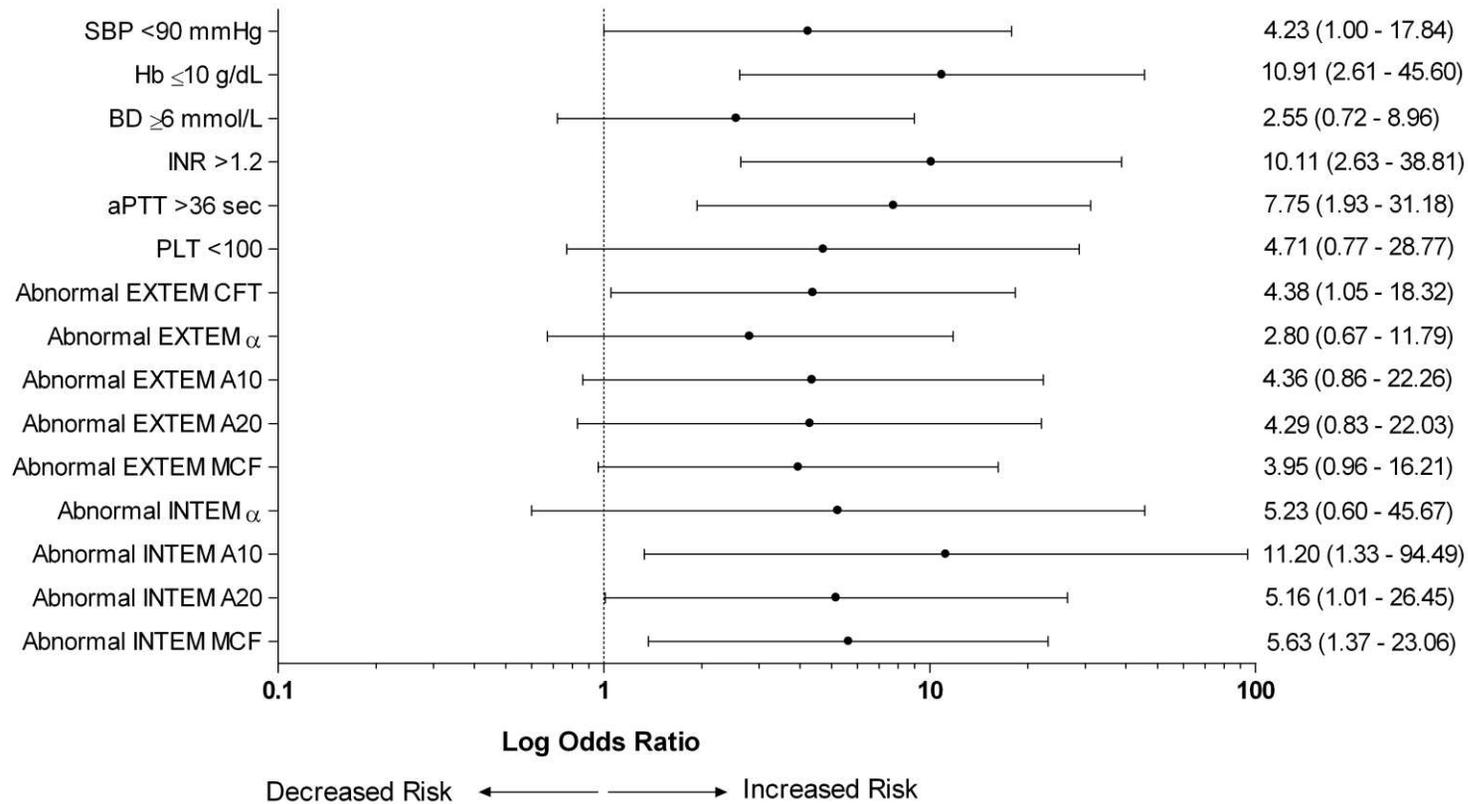
Table 5. Independent Risk Factors for Massive Transfusion in Severely Injured Trauma Patients

Step	Variable	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI)	Adjusted <i>p</i> Value	R ²
1	Hemoglobin ≤ 10 g/dL	18.18 (2.73 - 125.00)	0.003	0.350
2	Abnormal INTEM MCF	8.47 (1.19 - 62.50)	0.033	0.135

Risk factors entered into the model ($p < 0.2$): Systolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg vs. ≥ 90 mmHg; hemoglobin ≤ 10 g/dL vs. > 10 g/dL; Base Deficit ≤ 6 mmol/L vs. > 6 mmol/L; INR > 1.2 vs. ≤ 1.2; PTT > 36 sec vs. ≤ 36 sec; Platelet count < 100 vs. ≥ 100; Abnormal vs. Normal EXTEM: CFT, alpha angle, A10, A20, A30, MCF; Abnormal vs. Normal INTEM: alpha angle, A10, A20, A30, MCF

Abbreviations: CI, Confidence Interval; MCF, Maximum Clot Firmness; INR, International Normalized Ratio; PTT, Partial Thromboplastin Time; CFT, Clot Formation Time; A10/20, Clot Firmness x Minutes after CT

Figure 1. Risk for Massive Transfusion by Risk Factors ($p < 0.2$)



Abbreviations: SBP, Systolic Blood Pressure; Hb, Hemoglobin; BD, Base Deficit; INR, International Normalized Ratio; aPTT, Activated Partial Thromoplastin Time; PLT, Platelets; CFT, Clot Formation Time; A10/20, Clot Amplitude at 10/20 Minutes; MCF, Maximum Clot Firmness