
Questions and Answers session – 12th November 2020

Please note that the following text is not an accurate reproduction of the minutes of the online session. They have been extensively edited to make it more informative and useful to readers.

The study concludes that with an aging population geriatric trauma is going to increase but was this relative to other age cohorts or was it based on using the geriatric population as the denominator?

Other references have indicated that the increase in geriatric trauma is disproportionate to the amount that trauma is increasing as a whole. Meaning that geriatric trauma is increasing even relative to other age groups.

However, as the population is aging, the increased rate of geriatric trauma may also be in relation to this. In this study they looked at the overall trauma population and not the age-related healthy population.

What is the difference between incidence and prevalence?

Incidence – number of new cases in a given time period per number of healthy people

Prevalence – number of cases at a given point in time

Were the variables in the scoring system all measurable at admission or were they measured later for example after 24/48 hours or over a period of time?

ISS, NISS and TRISS were all used the point of admission. The APACHE II and SAPS II have to be done within 24 hours of admission. Therefore, perhaps it is not fair to compare these scoring systems against each other as it may then be the management at the centres that determine mortality rather than the actual scoring systems.

What is the purpose of using these scores? Do they have a clinical function or are they used for research and comparative reasons between centres?

The TRISS and NISS are clinical scores that are still used in trauma centres. The APACHE II is used in ICUs. The SAPS II is fundamentally a research score