



Clinical Practice Procedures: Assessment/COAST score

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| Policy code | CPP_AS_CS_0921 |
| Date | September, 2021 |
| Purpose | To ensure a consistent procedural approach to determining the COAST score. |
| Scope | Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff. |
| Health care setting | Pre-hospital assessment and treatment. |
| Population | Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise. |
| Source of funding | Internal – 100% |
| Author | Clinical Quality & Patient Safety Unit, QAS |
| Review date | September, 2024 |
| Information security | UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework. |
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COAST score

September, 2021

The coagulopathy of severe trauma (COAST) score is a rapid and highly specific predictor of acute traumatic coagulopathy (ATC) in adult blunt trauma.^[1]

It is determined by assessing five objective descriptors based on physical entrapment, systolic blood pressure, temperature, chest decompression and abdominal or pelvic content injury. All descriptors may be assessed using pre-hospital variables without the use of pathology or radiological testing.

The purpose of the COAST score is to accurately identify patients likely to develop ATC.

- Allocate the appropriate COAST score (0 to 7) by determining the value and score associated with each of the five variables.

COAST SCORE

| Variable | Value | Score |
|--|----------|-------|
| Entrapment (e.g. in vehicle) | Yes | 1 |
| | No | 0 |
| Systolic blood pressure (mmHg) | > 100 | 0 |
| | 90 – 100 | 1 |
| | < 90 | 2 |
| Temperature (°C) | > 35 | 0 |
| | 32 – 35 | 1 |
| | < 32 | 2 |
| Major chest injury likely to require intervention (e.g. decompression, chest tube) | Yes | 1 |
| | No | 0 |
| Likely intra-abdominal or pelvic injury | Yes | 1 |
| | No | 0 |

Indications

- History of blunt or penetrating trauma

Contraindications

- Nil in this setting

Complications

- Nil in this setting

+ Additional information

- A COAST score of ≥ 3 is a good predictor of adult patients requiring tranexamic acid.