

Characterizing Pediatric Supermassive Transfusion and the Contributing Injury Patterns in the Combat Environment

JD Hesling<sup>1,2</sup>, MW Paulson<sup>1,2</sup>, JT McKay<sup>1,2</sup>, VS Bebarta<sup>1,2,3</sup>, KM Flarity<sup>1,2,4</sup>, S Keenan<sup>2,5,6</sup>, AD Fisher<sup>7,8</sup>, MA Borgman<sup>6,9</sup>, MD April<sup>6,10</sup>, SG Schauer<sup>6,11,12</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO; <sup>2</sup>CU Anschutz Center for COMBAT Research, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO; <sup>3</sup>59th Medical Wing, Science & Technology, JBSA Lackland, TX; <sup>4</sup>Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL; <sup>5</sup>Joint Trauma System, Defense Health Agency, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX; <sup>6</sup>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD; <sup>7</sup>Department of Surgery, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM; <sup>8</sup>Medical Command, Texas Army National Guard, Austin TX; <sup>9</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX; <sup>10</sup>40th FRSD, 627th Hospital Center, 1st Medical Brigade, Fort Carson, CO; <sup>11</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, Brooke Army Medical Center, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX; <sup>12</sup>U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX



Patients receiving >80 mL/kg of blood product experienced increased mortality. Abdominal & extremity injuries were associated with need for SMT.

BACKGROUND

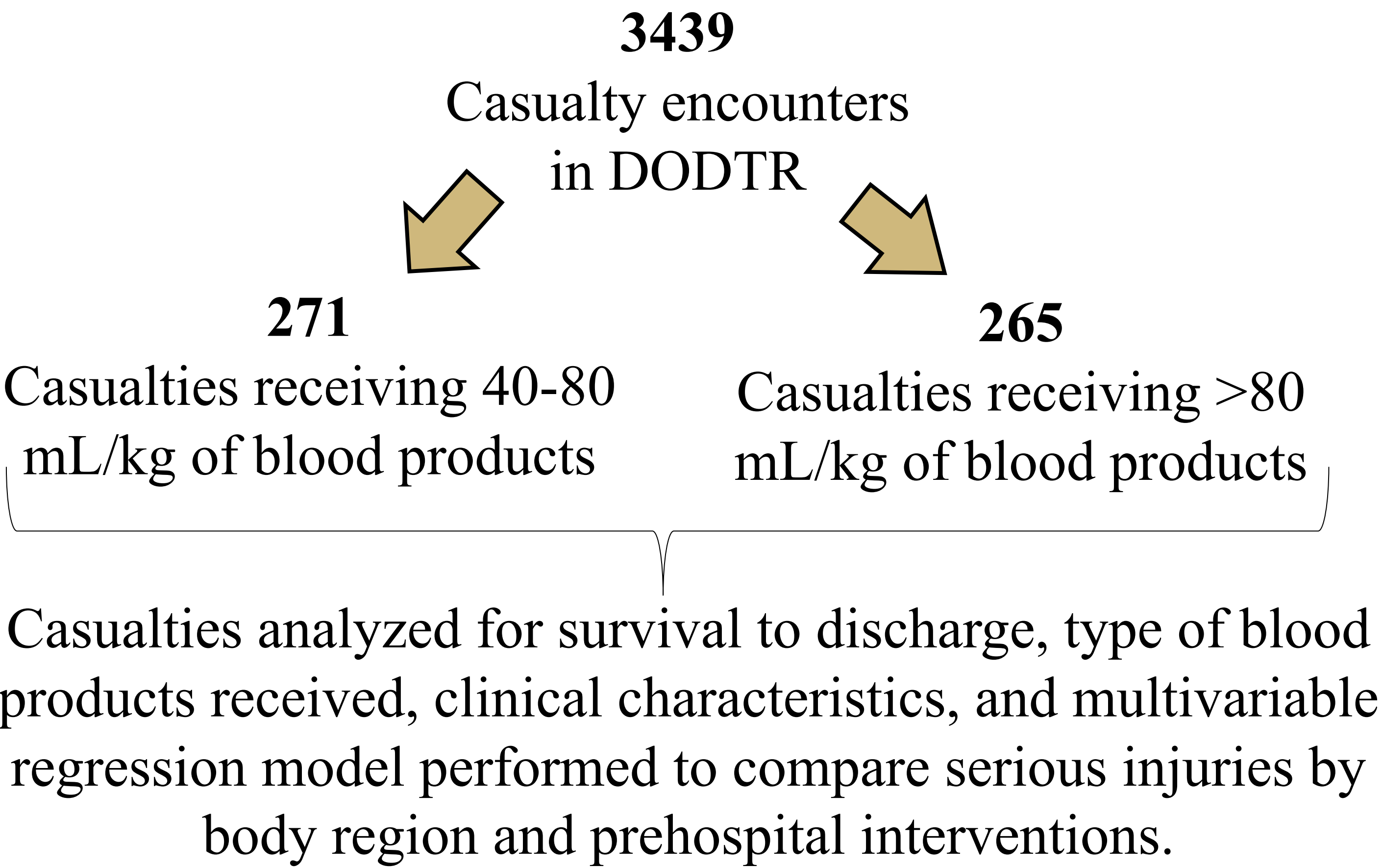
- Trauma is the leading cause of mortality in pediatric patients, with ~50% mortality rate among massive transfusion (MT) recipients.
- MT: >40 mL/kg of blood products within 24 hours.
- Literature describing supermassive transfusion (SMT) is lacking, specifically in transfusions of approximately one pediatric blood volume (75-80 mL/kg).

OBJECTIVES

Describe the pediatric casualties, injury patterns, prehospital interventions, and clinical characteristics that make up a subset of massive transfusions referred to as a SMT.

METHODS

Retrospective analysis of pediatric casualties from Department of Defense Trauma Registry (DODTR) January 2007 through January 2016.



RESULTS

- Survival to discharge was significantly higher in the MT cohort (86%) versus the SMT cohort (78%; **p<0.011**).
- Multivariable analysis revealed serious injuries to the abdomen (OR 1.65, 95% CI 1.08-2.53) and extremities (OR 2.13, 1.45-3.12) were associated with SMT.
- Wound dressings (41% vs. 29%; **p=0.003**), tourniquets (23% vs. 12%; **p=0.001**), and IO access (17 vs. 10%; **p=0.013**) were more common in the SMT group.

Multivariable Regression Model with Serious Injuries by Body Region	
Head/Neck	0.94 (0.62-1.42)
Facial	Low Incidence resulting in model dissociation
Thorax	
Abdomen	
Extremities	2.13 (1.45-3.12)
Skin	0.33 (0.12-0.84)

Prehospital Intervention Comparison			
Intervention	MT	SMT	P value
Wound Dressing	29% (79)	41% (109)	0.003
Tourniquet	12% (33)	23% (61)	0.001
IO	10% (28)	17% (47)	0.013
IV Fluids	13% (35)	18% (48)	0.096
Intubation	12% (33)	14% (37)	0.539

Age-Adjusted Vital Signs Comparison			
Vital Signs	MT	SMT	P value
Hypotension	22% (59)	41% (100)	<0.001
Tachycardia	87% (228)	86% (223)	0.932

CONCLUSIONS

Pediatric SMT patients are at increased risk of mortality. Our study highlights the seriousness of extremity injuries, identifying associations between severe injuries to the extremities and abdomen with receipt of SMT. Prehospital wound dressings, tourniquets, and IO access were more frequent in the SMT cohort. Hypotension was associated with SMT, but tachycardia was not a reliable predictor of SMT over MT.

LIMITATIONS

- Applying data from conflict zones to civilian trauma is difficult. Explosive injury was present in 63.9% of our cases but is a rare cause of pediatric trauma in the U.S.
- We did not account for prehospital transport time and/or method in conflict zones. Longer transport times and less formal transport methods may have resulted in en route death for some patients with severe injuries that would have required a transfusion.
- Our retrospective analysis is limited to variables collected and depends on accurate data recording and entry into the DODTR. Extensive training and quality assurance processes may mitigate this limitation.
- No long-term follow-up after discharge.

DISCLAIMERS

The opinions expressed in this poster presentation are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Army Medical Department, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.

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