

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59078

Title: Damage-Control Surgery in Severe Maxillofacial Trauma: A Pragmatic Scoping Review of Indications, Hemorrhage Control, Temporary Stabilization, and Transition to Definitive Reconstruction

Recommendation:

- Accept as it is
 ✓ Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity		✓		
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr S. K. Nath

Detailed Reviewer's Report

Strength of the study:

- Clinically relevant and important trauma topic
- Clear review objective
- Appropriate scoping review design
- JBI and PRISMA ScR guidance are mentioned
- Search strategy covers major trauma related concepts
- Large number of records were initially screened
- Evidence is presented in a structured manner
- Practical clinical framework is proposed

Weakness of the study:

- Only two databases were searched
- Screening was not independently duplicated
- No formal risk of bias assessment was performed
- Most available evidence is retrospective or observational
- Evidence quality remains limited
- Study definitions are heterogeneous
- Some conclusions may appear stronger than the evidence
- The review protocol was not prospectively registered

Reviewers Comments:

The manuscript addresses an important and clinically relevant problem in severe maxillofacial trauma. The review is well organized and provides a useful overview of patient selection, hemorrhage control, temporary stabilization and transition to definitive reconstruction. The proposed four phase clinical framework is also practical. Ethical clearance is not required because this study is based entirely on previously published literature, and the manuscript clearly states that ethical approval is not applicable. However, the methodology has some important limitations. Only PubMed and Scopus were searched, screening was not performed by two independent reviewers, and no formal risk of bias assessment was undertaken. Most included studies are retrospective series or observational reports, which limits the strength of the conclusions. The protocol was developed in advance but was not prospectively registered. Some statements should therefore be presented more cautiously. Grammar, sentence construction, spacing and overall writing quality require minor editorial correction. Overall, the review is useful but requires methodological clarification and revision.

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Previously Published anywhere/Plagiarism check:

An exact title search did not identify the same publication. However, closely related reviews on damage control surgery and severe maxillofacial trauma have already been published, including systematic and scoping reviews. The present manuscript has a broader evidence mapping approach and appears to have a distinct scope. A formal similarity check is still recommended before publication.