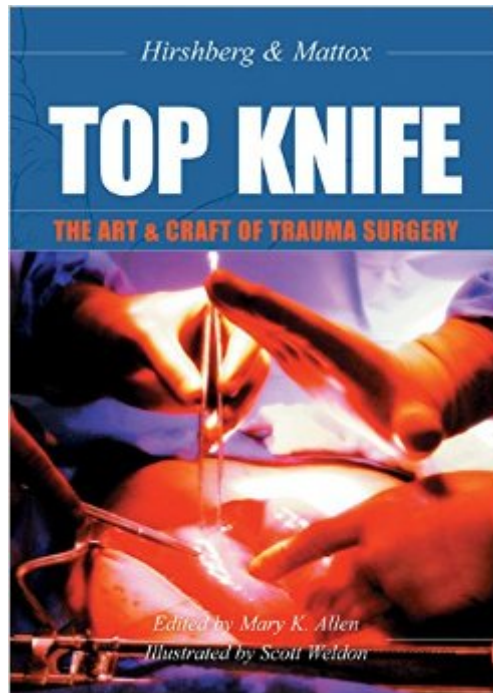


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# TOP KNIFE: The Art & Craft Of Trauma Surgery



## Synopsis

This book will help you take a badly wounded patient to the operating room, organize yourself and your team, do battle with some vicious injuries and come out with the best possible result. It is a practical guide to operative trauma surgery for residents and registrars, for general surgeons with an interest in trauma, and for isolated surgeons operating on wounded patients in military, rural or humanitarian settings. A surgical atlas may show you what to do with your hands but not how to think, plan and improvise. Here you will find practical advice on how to use your head as well as your hands when operating on a massively bleeding trauma patient. The first part of this book presents some general principles of trauma surgery. The second part is about trauma surgery as a contact sport. Here we show you how to deal with specific injuries to the abdomen, chest, neck and peripheral vessels. The single most important lesson we hope you will derive from this book is to always keep it simple because, in trauma surgery, the simple stuff works.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Truly outstanding book for anyone providing surgical care to trauma patients. We've decided to purchase a copy for each of our senior residents so they will definitely read it. Easy to read.

Practical knowledge and techniques, evidence based where possible, experienced base always. It reinforced much I've learned in 25 years of trying to teach trauma surgery and taught me new tricks and concepts.

This is a well-written and easy-to-read book that tackles its subject in a conversational style. In the introduction, the authors state clearly that their goal is to educate general surgeons in the basics of trauma surgery and that they focus exclusively on the work that needs to be done in the operating room. Readers interested in the care of the trauma patient before or after the operating room should look elsewhere. In addition, the book is aimed at surgeons who are already familiar with elective surgeries and focuses on the differences between those elective procedures and the emergent procedures required for trauma victims. As such, it's probably best suited for senior surgical residents and practicing general surgeons who don't already routinely care for trauma victims. For these groups of readers, this book is an excellent choice - it's an easy and quite educational read. Other groups of readers (such as Emergency Department personnel and ICU personnel) may wish to look elsewhere for their learning.

the title says all you really need to know. This book presents a logical and often comical approach to the surgical trauma patient. While some parts may be outdated or controversial in our age of ebm, the core components of how to approach a crashing patient who has suffered penetrating trauma have not changed. This book was clearly written by a Trauma surgeon for surgeons. It is my favorite medical book and i wish that this style of writing was more common as it makes for a quick and memorable read.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book not for the "how to do it" aspects of the book but for the "why to do it this way at this point in time" aspect. As the authors point out, much of trauma surgery is time critical, and options are often limited. Surgical decision making at this juncture is the factor that often leads to success or failure - Hirshberg and Mattox succinctly list options and the reasons for following one line of attack instead of another given different circumstances. The book is almost flippant in its language on many occasions, and for those of us who have done time at Ben Taub know that this is not in character for either author, for whom the art and craft of surgery is deadly serious. The apparent flippant tone introduced into the book allows the authors to provide emphasis in a way that a chart or graph wouldn't - fluently and with humour. The book is presented in the way that a mentor may review a case in the surgeons lounge - simply, clearly, and with relevance. This

is an extremely useful book for those involved with trauma surgery, and I hope to see new editions of this book at regular intervals.

This is the most entertaining surgical textbook I have ever read! It is straight to the point, pointing out practical solutions and a practicable way of thinking. It is focused on strategy and tactics, not on technical and anatomic details. I will heartily recommend this book to all surgeons who deal with trauma and are not already experienced trauma surgeons. (For the experienced trauma surgeon this will probably good entertainment as well.)

I was recently reminded of this book during an online discussion about surgical texts. My residency program was not heavy on penetrating trauma so I purchased Top Knife a few years ago as a "How To" guide for the oral boards. I could not have been more pleased with that decision. Top Knife is succinct yet detailed, timely yet timeless and dare I say it, funny! Several times throughout the book the authors will state something to the effect of. "The books tell you to do X; we have never been able to get X to work. If you can, please share your secret with us!" Maybe I'm easily amused but those passages made me laugh out loud as most books are filled with impractical advice that would never work outside of BMS or some other rarified theatre. We now recommend this to our residents as reading for their trauma rotation and board exams. It's that good.

Great information and a great read. I like the writing style, sort of how a smarter colleague might instruct you. The authors have the thoracic inlet mixed up with the thoracic outlet and it made tough for me to figure out what the heck they were talking about until I figured they got it backwards. Please, please fix it on the next edition. The thoracic inlet is the little hole at the top of the chest and the thoracic outlet is the big hole at the bottom of the chest

This book was indescribably helpful while I was a general surgery resident and an Army surgeon deployed to Afghanistan. It rivals Carol Scott-Connor's book 'Chassin's Operative Surgery' as my favorite surgery book. This book boils down complex maneuvers and trauma mind frame into a delivery that is accessible to everyone. Drs Maddox and Asher chose to share their unparalleled experience with the rest of us, and I am every grateful. Highly recommend this book for all surgeons, because you think you may not be in the position to deal with some of these emergencies... But you know how life can be.

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