**EmergencyKT: Penetrating Neck Injury**

**Patient Presents with Penetrating Neck Injury**

- **Trauma Stat Activation**
  - **Possible Platysma Violation?**
    - Yes
      - **Indication for Immediate Surgery?**
        - Yes
          - **Operative Repair**
        - No
          - **Hemorrhage Control**
            - **Intubation?**
              - Yes
                - **Operative Repair**
              - No
                - **Positive**
                  - **Trajectory concerning for possible aerodigestive or vascular injury**
                    - **Negative**
                      - **CTA**
                    - **Positive Result?**
                      - Yes
                        - **Admission**
                          - **Angiogram and/or Endoscopy**
                        - **No**
                          - **Positive Result?**
                            - Yes
                              - **Operative Repair**
                            - **No**

- **Wound Care Observe/Discharge**

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1) **Criteria for Immediate Surgery**
- Shock
- Pulsatile Bleeding
- Hematoma +/- Tracheal Shift
- Pulse deficit
- Audible Bruit
- Airway Compromise
- Acute Respiratory Distress
- Subcutaneous Emphysema
- Stridor, Hoarseness
- AMS
- Stroke

2) **Airway Management**
- Difficult airway, but likely RSI
- Avoid blind intubation
- Cricothyrotomy through hematoma discouraged
- Tracheostomy may be preferable

**Notes on Cervical Spine Immobilization**
- Only if does not impede evaluation and hemorrhage control
- Only for new neurological deficit