



National Association of
Emergency Medical Technicians

Title: Multicenter Prospective Validation of Prehospital Clinical Spinal Clearance Criteria

Robert M. Domeier, MD; Robert A. Swor, DO; Rawden W. Evans, MD, PhD; J. Brian Hancock, MD; William Fales, MD; Jon Krohmer, MD; Shirley M. Frederiksen, RN, MS; Edgardo J. Rivera-Rivera, MD; M. Anthony Schork, PhD

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Title: Eight minutes or less: does the ambulance response time guideline impact trauma patient outcome?(1).

Authors: [Peter Pons](#), Vincent Markovchick

Affiliation: Department of Emergency Medicine and Denver Paramedic Division, Denver Health Medical Center, Denver, Colorado, USA

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Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies are increasingly being held to an ambulance response time (RT) criterion of responding to a medical emergency within 8 min for at least 90% of calls. This recommendation resulted from one study of outcome after nontraumatic cardiac arrest and has never been studied for any other emergency. This retrospective study evaluates the effect of exceeding the 8 min RT guideline on patient survival for victims of traumatic injury treated by an urban paramedic ambulance EMS system and transported to a single Level I trauma center. Of 3576 patients identified by the hospital trauma registry, 3490 (97.6%) had complete records available. Patients were grouped according to ambulance RT: ≤ 8 min ($n = 2450$) or > 8 min ($n = 1040$). After controlling for other significant predictors, there was no difference in survival after traumatic injury when the 8 min ambulance RT criteria was exceeded (mortality odds ratio 0.81, 95% CI 0.43-1.52). There was also no significant difference in survival when patients were stratified by injury severity score group. Exceeding the ambulance industry response time criterion of 8 min does not affect patient survival after traumatic injury.