FEEDBACK TO THE FIELD (FT2F) #2: Use of the Pelvic Stabilizer (TPOD® Device)*

AFMES: COL (Ret) H.T. Harcke, MC, USA**
Lt Col E. L. Mazuchowski, USAF, MC

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FEEDBACK TO THE FIELD:

Use of the Pelvic Stabilizer (TPOD® Device)

H T Harcke, COL, MC, USA
Chief, Forensic Radiology
Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Edward Mazuchowski, Maj, MC, USAF
Deputy Medical Examiner
Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner
OVERVIEW:

• The TPOD® Pelvic Stabilization Device is used for field stabilization of suspected pelvic fractures.

• The device is claimed to provide “safe simultaneous circumferential compression of the pelvic region”.

• We have observed placement of these devices when performing the Computed Tomographic Imaging that precedes each autopsy at the Dover AFB Mortuary.
OVERVIEW:

• The instructions for use published by the manufacturer (PYNG Medical) outline a six step process*

*www.pyng.com
1. Slide Belt under patient and into position under the pelvis.

2. Trim the Belt, leaving a 6-8” gap over the centre of the abdomen.
Apply Velcro-backed Pulley System on each side of the gap.

Draw the Pull Tab, creating simultaneous circumferential compression.
Secure the Velcro-backed Pull Tab to the Belt.

Record the date and time of application.
OVERVIEW:

• In this communication we present images from two cases where the pelvic stabilization device was used and we observed variance from the recommended application steps at time of autopsy.

NOTE:

• This presentation makes no association between use of the device and outcome of treatment.

• We have no knowledge of the echelon of care, facility and individual(s) involved in device placement.
Case 1

Multitrauma which included pelvic fractures. There was surgical intervention so the device was likely applied after the procedures.
Axial and coronal CT images show bilateral sacral fractures (solid arrows).
Coronal and axial CT showing the TPOD pulley (arrowheads) anterior to the abdominal surgical defect (open arrow).
3D MDCT reconstructions show bilateral sacral fractures and ischial and pubic fractures.
TPOD® pulley applied to an uncut belt in variance with instructions.

After removal intact pulley mechanism was confirmed.
Case 2

Multitrauma which included pelvic fractures. Pulley applied to an uncut belt, off center and not maximally tightened.
Pulley applied to an uncut belt, off center and not maximally tightened.

Gap present bilaterally, note overlap of the belt.
Repositioning and tightening of the pulley visibly reduced the gaps on both sides.
Pelvic fracture positions before and after tightening of the device. Pulley applied to an uncut band.

Pubic symphysis gap reduces by 14.2mm
Pelvic fracture positions before and after tightening of the device. Pulley applied to an uncut band.

Pubic symphysis gap reduces by about 2 cm.
CONCLUSION:

This communication reports two cases showing TPOD® Pelvic Stabilization Device utilization with variance from the recommended application steps.

In one case pulley tightening demonstrated the device’s ability to move pelvic fracture fragments.
Caution:

This presentation makes no association between application of the TPOD® Pelvic Stabilization Device and outcome of treatment. The clinical circumstances and specific details surrounding the delivery of emergency treatment in these cases is unknown.
NOTES of CAUTION:

- The clinical circumstances and details surrounding emergency treatment in these cases is unknown.
- This presentation makes no association between device placement and outcome of treatment.
- This case series is drawn from cases with fatal injuries, which may skew data.
For FT2F Comments / Questions / Requests:
Contact the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES)

Contact Information:
Lt Col Edward L Mazuchowski, USAF, MC
Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner

edward.l.mazuchowski.mil@mail.mil
(302) 346-8648