

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347194479>

# Global Characterisation of Coagulopathy in Isolated Traumatic Brain Injury (iTBI): A CENTER-TBI Analysis

Article in *Neurocritical Care* · December 2020

DOI: 10.1007/s12028-020-01151-7

CITATIONS

8

READS

102

15 authors, including:



**Julia Böhm**

University Hospital RWTH Aachen

22 PUBLICATIONS 217 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



**Helge Güting**

Universität Witten/Herdecke

6 PUBLICATIONS 75 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



**Sophie Thorn**

Alfred Hospital

8 PUBLICATIONS 77 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)



**Herbert Schöchl**

Unfallkrankenhaus Salzburg

182 PUBLICATIONS 7,408 CITATIONS

[SEE PROFILE](#)

Some of the authors of this publication are also working on these related projects:



Polytraumamanagement [View project](#)



ORANGE Study [View project](#)

ORIGINAL WORK



# Global Characterisation of Coagulopathy in Isolated Traumatic Brain Injury (iTBI): A CENTER-TBI Analysis

Julia K. Böhm<sup>1</sup>, Helge Güting<sup>1</sup>, Sophie Thorn<sup>2</sup>, Nadine Schäfer<sup>1</sup>, Victoria Rambach<sup>1</sup>, Herbert Schöch<sup>1,4,5</sup>, Oliver Grottké<sup>6</sup>, Rolf Rossaint<sup>6</sup>, Simon Stanworth<sup>7</sup>, Nicola Curry<sup>7</sup>, Rolf Lefering<sup>1</sup>, Marc Maegele<sup>1,3\*</sup> and CENTER-TBI Participants and Investigators

© 2020 The Author(s)

## Abstract

**Background:** Trauma-induced coagulopathy in patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) is associated with high rates of complications, unfavourable outcomes and mortality. The mechanism of the development of TBI-associated coagulopathy is poorly understood.

**Methods:** This analysis, embedded in the prospective, multi-centred, observational Collaborative European Neuro-Trauma Effectiveness Research in Traumatic Brain Injury (CENTER-TBI) study, aimed to characterise the coagulopathy of TBI. Emphasis was placed on the acute phase following TBI, primary on subgroups of patients with abnormal coagulation profile within 4 h of admission, and the impact of pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy. In order to minimise confounding factors, patients with isolated TBI (iTBI) ( $n = 598$ ) were selected for this analysis.

**Results:** Haemostatic disorders were observed in approximately 20% of iTBI patients. In a subgroup analysis, patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy had a twice exacerbated coagulation profile as likely as those without premedication. This was in turn associated with increased rates of mortality and unfavourable outcome post-injury. A multivariate analysis of iTBI patients without pre-injury anticoagulant therapy identified several independent risk factors for coagulopathy which were present at hospital admission. Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) less than or equal to 8, base excess (BE) less than or equal to  $-6$ , hypothermia and hypotension increased risk significantly.

**Conclusion:** Consideration of these factors enables early prediction and risk stratification of acute coagulopathy after TBI, thus guiding clinical management.

**Keywords:** CENTER-TBI, Traumatic brain injury, Coagulopathy, Risk factors

## Introduction

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) remains a leading cause of death and disability worldwide [1]. The initial insult often results in disruptions of the cerebral vasculature and pathological alterations of the blood–brain barrier (BBB)

which may evolve into haemorrhagic lesions. In addition, TBI-associated factors may disturb the body's haemocoagulative capacity and alter the delicate balance between bleeding and thrombus formation leading to a substantial exacerbation of the initial injury sustained [2–5]. Recent evidence suggests that the acute phase after TBI is rather characterised by dysfunction of the coagulation cascade and hyperfibrinolysis, both of which likely contribute to haemorrhagic progression. This may then be followed by platelet dysfunction and decreased platelet count while the clinical implication of these alterations remains

\*Correspondence: Marc.Maegele@t-online.de

<sup>1</sup> Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health, Institute for Research in Operative Medicine, Witten/Herdecke University, Ostmerheimer Str. 200, Building 38, 51109 Cologne, Germany

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

---

unclear. At later stages, a poorly defined prothrombotic state emerges, partly due to fibrinolysis shutdown and hyperactive platelets [6–8]. Haemostatic alterations, in particular those during the acute phase after TBI, have been associated with higher mortality and more unfavourable outcome than in non-coagulopathic TBI patients [2, 4, 9–11].

The present study aimed to further characterise the alterations to the haemostatic system occurring in the context of isolated TBI (iTBI) based upon data collected into the central database (INCF Neurobot tool version 2.0 (INCF, Stockholm, Sweden) of the prospective, multi-centred, observational Collaborative European Neuro-Trauma Effectiveness Research in Traumatic Brain Injury (CENTER-TBI) cohort study. Particular interest was given to the impact of pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy. Risk stratification was performed to identify independent predictors indicating coagulopathy after iTBI.

## Methods

### Study Population

The present study was an embedded study to the longitudinal, observational CENTER-TBI study, which recruited patients from 60 selected centres across Europe and Israel between December 2014 and December 2017 [12]. A total of 4509 patients with a clinical diagnosis of TBI were included in the CENTER-TBI core database. Inclusion criteria were a clinical diagnosis of TBI, indication for CT scanning, presentation to study centre within 24 h of injury, and informed consent obtained according to local and national requirements [12]. Participants were excluded if they had any severe pre-existing neurological disorder that could have confounded outcome assessments. As part of the CENTER-TBI core study, the present analysis was performed in accordance with all relevant local and European laws. Informed consent, including the approval to use data for research purposes, was obtained from each subject according to local ethics and regulations.

Patients with extracranial injuries, defined as  $AIS_{\text{Extracranial}} > 0$ , and those missing critical data points were excluded a priori. We included patients for whom data reporting conventional coagulation parameters within 4 h following iTBI were available. This population included subgroups that developed laboratory abnormalities and those with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy.

### Data Collection

The cohort included patients with iTBI who were characterised with respect to the presence of haemostatic abnormalities based upon conventional coagulation

parameters within 4 h of injury. The prospectively recorded parameters in scope of the CENTER-TBI core study that were considered for analysis comprised demographics, injury characteristics, medical history, medical presentation in the emergency department (ED), admission laboratory values and pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy. Follow-up data on functional outcome, including mortality and Glasgow Outcome Score-Extended (GOS-E), were obtained 6-month post-injury. A GOS-E between 1 and 4 (dead, vegetative state, low severe and upper severe disability) was considered unfavourable.

The primary outcome as the presence or absence of abnormal coagulation profile was defined by conventional coagulation parameters obtained within 4 h of the injury. The following parameters were considered for diagnosing an abnormal coagulation profile: International Normalised Ratio (INR)  $> 1.2$  or activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT)  $> 35$  s or fibrinogen  $< 150$  mg/dL or platelet count  $< 100 \times 10^3$ /nL. All relevant data for further analysis were extracted from the INCF Neurobot tool version 2.0 (INCF, Stockholm, Sweden).

### Statistical Analysis

For the descriptive analysis of iTBI patients with and without pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy, metric data are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR). Categorical data are presented in percentage. Differences were tested using the Mann–Whitney U test and Chi-squared ( $\chi^2$ ) test, respectively. Nonparametric Kruskal–Wallis test was performed to compare the standard coagulation test in relation to injury severity ( $AIS_{\text{Brain}}$ ) in iTBI. A  $p$  value  $< 0.05$  was considered statistically significant.

In a univariate analysis, potential predictors for an abnormal coagulation profile were identified via  $\chi^2$  test. A logistic regression analysis (multivariate analysis) with coagulopathy as dependent variable was performed to evaluate independent risk factors associated with acute coagulopathy in iTBI. Analysis of potential predictors and independent risk factors of iTBI patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy was not feasible due to the low number of cases. Some predictors were discriminated as independent risk factors (e.g. age  $\geq 75$ , sex, neuroworsening) as no differences were detected. The predictor “arrival haemoglobin” was excluded due to low prevalence. The results are presented as odds ratio (OR) with 95% confidence interval ( $CI_{95}$ ) and regression coefficient. Statistical analyses were performed using SPSS statistics version 25 for Windows (IBM Corp., Armonk, NY, USA) and GraphPadPrism version 7.00 (GraphPad Software, La Jolla California, USA).

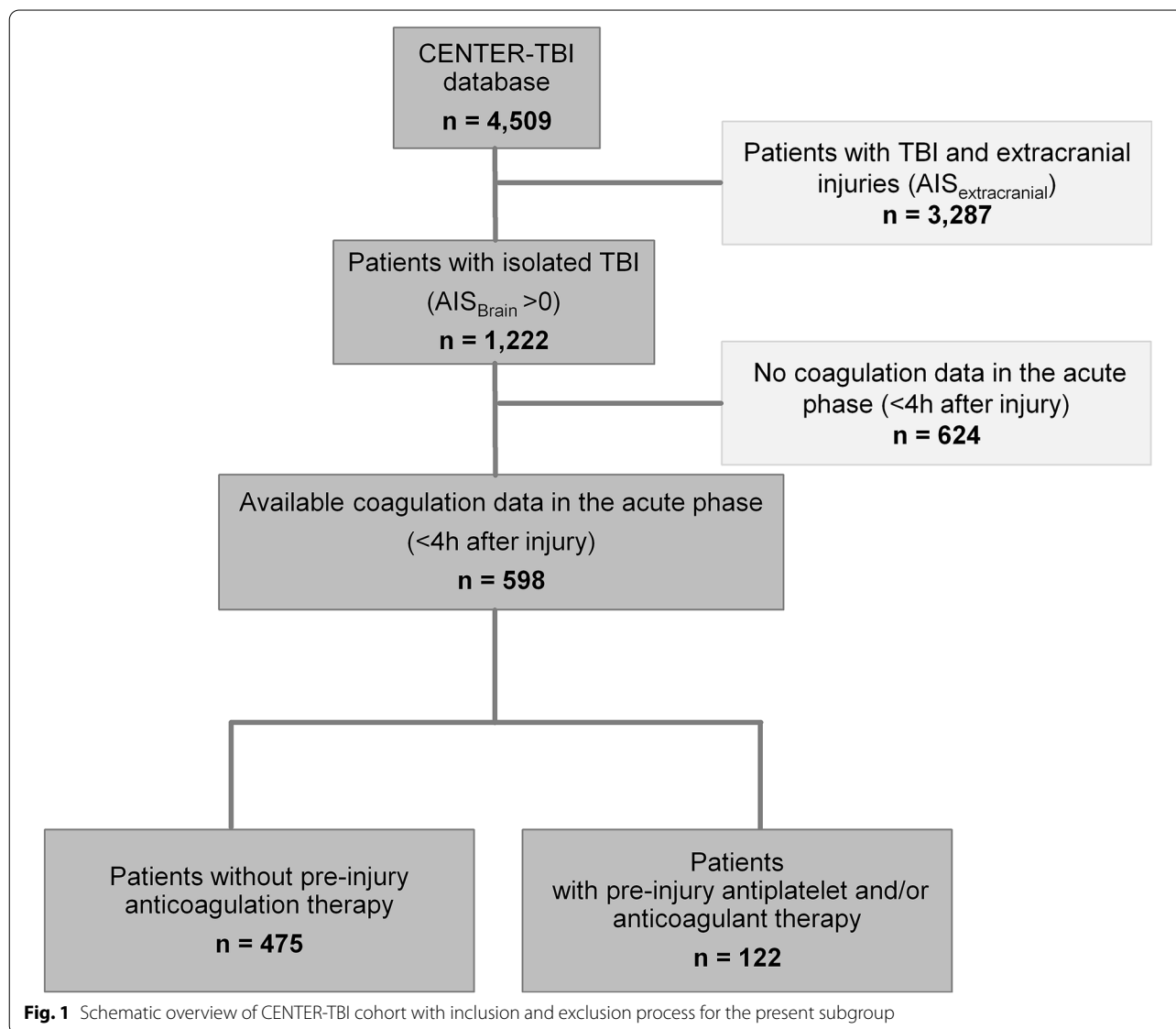
## Results

### Cohort Characteristics

From the 4509 patients included into the CENTER-TBI core study database, 3287 had to be excluded for co-existing extracranial injuries and 624 for missing data (Fig. 1). Thus, 598 patients with iTBI were included in the present analysis. Approximately one-fifth of the cohort was assigned to the group of elderly patients ( $\geq 75$  years, Table 1). Almost all patients (98.7%, data not shown) had sustained a blunt trauma mechanism resulting from various injury patterns, with ground-level falls being the most common cause of injury (28.3%, data not shown). The majority of the injuries sustained were severe ( $\text{AIS}_{\text{Brain}} \geq 3$ , 85%, Table 1) and closed head injuries (93.5%, Table 1). Computed tomography (CT) scans

performed immediately after emergency department (ED) admission revealed the following most frequent intracranial pathologies: (1) subarachnoid haemorrhage (52%), (2) subdural haematoma (46.4%), (3) midline shift (24.9%), (4) extradural haematoma (16.5%), (5) basal cistern compression (13.5%), (6) depressed skull fracture (13.2%) and (7) diffuse axonal injury (9.2%) (data not shown).

Haemostatic alterations based upon conventional coagulation parameters within 4 h after injury were present in 19.6% of included iTBI patients ( $n = 117/598$ , Table 1). In addition, for one in five patients pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy was documented (Table 1). Ninety-eight iTBI patients (16.4%, Table 1) died while the



**Table 1 Characteristics of patients with isolated traumatic brain injury < 4 h following injury (n = 598)**

iTBI patients n = 598	
<b>Demographics</b>	
Age, years; median [IQR]	52 [30–69]
Age ≥ 75; n [%]	106 [17.7]
Male gender; n [%]	415 [69.4]
<b>Injury characteristics</b>	
Closed TBI; n [%]	559 [93.5]
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 2; n [%]	71 [11.9]
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 3; n [%]	205 [34.3]
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 4; n [%]	158 [26.4]
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 5; n [%]	147 [24.6]
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 6; n [%]	17 [2.8]
<b>Medical presentation at admission (ED)</b>	
GCS; median [IQR]	14 [10–15]
SBP; mmHg; median [IQR]	138 [121–156]
Heart rate; bpm; median [IQR]	80.0 [70.5–95.0]
Temperature; °C; median [IQR]	36.2 [35.8–36.7]
Received emergency surgical intervention; n [%]	119 [19.9]
<b>Coagulation status, tests and medications</b>	
Coagulopathy; n [%]	117 [19.6]
Haemoglobin; g/dl; median [IQR]	13.7 [12.6–14.7]
INR; median [IQR]	1.04 [1.00–1.15]
aPTT; seconds; median [IQR]	28.2 [25.1–32.4]
Platelets; nl; median [IQR]	224 [183–267.5]
Fibrinogen; mg/dl; median [IQR]	274.5 [230–320]
Pre-injury antiplatelet/anticoagulant medication; n [%]	122 [20.4]
<b>Outcomes</b>	
Death [overall]; n [%]	98 [16.4]
GOS-E [6 months—derived]; median [IQR]	7 [3–8]

AIS Abbreviated Injury Scale, aPTT activated partial thromboplastin time, ED Emergency department, GCS Glasgow Coma Scale, GOS-E Glasgow Outcome Score-Extended, INR International Normalized Ratio, SBP Systolic blood pressure

median outcome in surviving patients at 6 months after iTBI was favourable (Table 1).

### Subgroup Analysis of Patients with Pre-injury Antiplatelet and/or Anticoagulant Therapy

Patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy were significantly older than those without. The proportion of patients ≥ 75 years of age comprised more than half in the group of patients on pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy (Table 2). A greater proportion of patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet medication had an untreatable TBI defined as AIS<sub>Brain</sub> = 6. Coagulopathy by conventional coagulation parameters was diagnosed twice as frequently in patients on pre-injury anticoagulant and/

or antiplatelet therapy (Table 2). Conventional coagulation parameters such as INR and aPTT were significantly deteriorated and platelet counts trended to decrease among patients with pre-injury anticoagulation and/or antiplatelet therapy (Table 2). In those patients without pre-injury anticoagulant therapy, conventional coagulation parameters significantly deteriorated with increasing severity of brain injury; a higher AIS<sub>Brain</sub> correlated with higher INR, lower fibrinogen levels and lower platelet counts (Fig. 2). Patients with iTBI and on pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy had threefold higher mortality and higher frequency of unfavourable 6-month outcomes (GOS-E 1–4) compared to those without pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy (51.9% vs. 23.5%) (Table 2, Fig. 3). Notably, a higher percentage of patients with pre-injury intake of vitamin K antagonists had an abnormal coagulation profile after iTBI than patients on other pre-injury anticoagulant or antiplatelet therapy (Table 3).

### Risk Factors for Coagulopathy of Patients Without Pre-injury Antiplatelet and/or Anticoagulant Therapy

Univariate analysis identified higher magnitude of brain injury (AIS<sub>Brain</sub>) ( $p = 0.001$ ) and lower GCS on admission as potential independent risk factors ( $p < 0.001$ ) for an acute coagulopathy (Table 4). Patients with coagulopathy were three times as likely to have unreactive pupils than non-coagulopathic patients with (Table 4). Coagulopathic patients were three times more likely to be hypoxic (patients with a PaO<sub>2</sub> < 8 kPa (60 mmHg) and/or a SaO<sub>2</sub> < 90%), eight times more likely to be hypotensive and more than five times more likely to be hypothermic (Table 4). Altered base excess (BE) ( $\leq -6$ ) occurred 5.7 times more frequently in coagulopathic patients (Table 4). Severe intracranial lesions causing basal cistern compression and severe contusions were associated with coagulopathy, with 2.5- and 2.4-fold increased incidence, respectively, among coagulopathic patients (Table 4). Mortality among coagulopathic patients with iTBI was almost three times higher than those with normal coagulation profile (25.3% vs. 9.0%;  $p < 0.0001$ ) (data not shown). Multivariate regression analysis identified significant independent risk factors associated with coagulopathy in iTBI patients including odds ratios (OR): the GCS  $\leq 8$  at hospital admission had an OR of 2.4 and unbalanced BE ( $\leq -6$ ) had an OR of 3.1 (Table 5). Systemic secondary insults such as hypotension (< 90 mmHg SBP), which had an OR of 3.5 and hypothermia (temperature < 35 °C), with an OR of 2.9, were also identified (Table 5).

**Table 2 Characteristics of iTBI patients with and without pre-injury anticoagulation therapy (n = 598)**

	iTBI patients without pre-injury anti-platelet and/or anticoagulant therapy n = 475	iTBI patients with pre-injury anti-platelet and/or anticoagulant therapy n = 122	p value
<b>Demographics</b>			
Age; years; median [IQR],	44 [25–61]	75 [68–81]	< 0.001
Age ≥ 75; n [%]	42 [8.8]	64 [52.5]	< 0.001
Male gender; n [%]	333 [70.1]	82 [67.2]	0.536
<b>Injury characteristics</b>			
Closed TBI; n [%]	443 [93.2]	115 [94.2]	0.690
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 2; n [%]	55 [11.5]	16 [13.1]	0.640
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 3; n [%]	164 [34.5]	41 [33.6]	0.849
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 4; n [%]	130 [27.4]	28 [23.0]	0.324
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 5; n [%]	118 [24.8]	28 [23.0]	0.665
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> 6; n [%]	8 [1.7]	9 [7.4]	0.001
<b>Medical presentation at admission (ED)</b>			
GCS; median [IQR]	14 [11–15]	14 [9–15]	0.747
SBP; mmHg; median [IQR]	135 [120–150]	150 [132.5–169.2]	< 0.001
Heart rate; bpm; median [IQR]	80 [72–95]	80 [67.8–92.3]	0.368
Temperature; °C; median [IQR]	36.2 [35.8–36.7]	36.3 [35.8–36.7]	0.581
Received emergency surgical intervention; n [%]	97 [20.4]	21 [17.2]	0.427
<b>Coagulopathy, standard laboratory</b>			
Coagulopathy; n [%]	75 [15.8]	42 [34.4]	< 0.001
Haemoglobin; g/dl; median [IQR]	13.9 [12.7–14.8]	13.7 [12.7–14.9]	0.993
INR; median [IQR]	1.03 [1.0–1.1]	1.1 [1.0–2.48]	< 0.001
aPTT; seconds; median [IQR]	28.0 [25.0–32.0]	29.2 [26.0–35.0]	0.007
Platelets; n/l; median [IQR]	226 [183–272]	214 [185–254]	0.052
Fibrinogen; mg/dl; median [IQR]	270 [230–316.5]	304 [251.7–380]	0.018
<b>Outcomes</b>			
Death [overall]; n [%]	55 [11.6]	43 [35.2]	< 0.001
GOS-E [6 months—derived]; median [IQR]	7 [5–8]	4 [1–8]	< 0.001

Data on the presence of pre-injury anticoagulation therapy were missing in one case

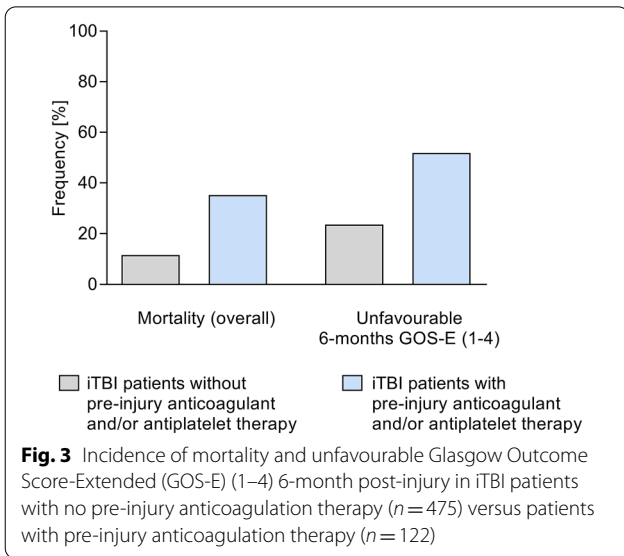
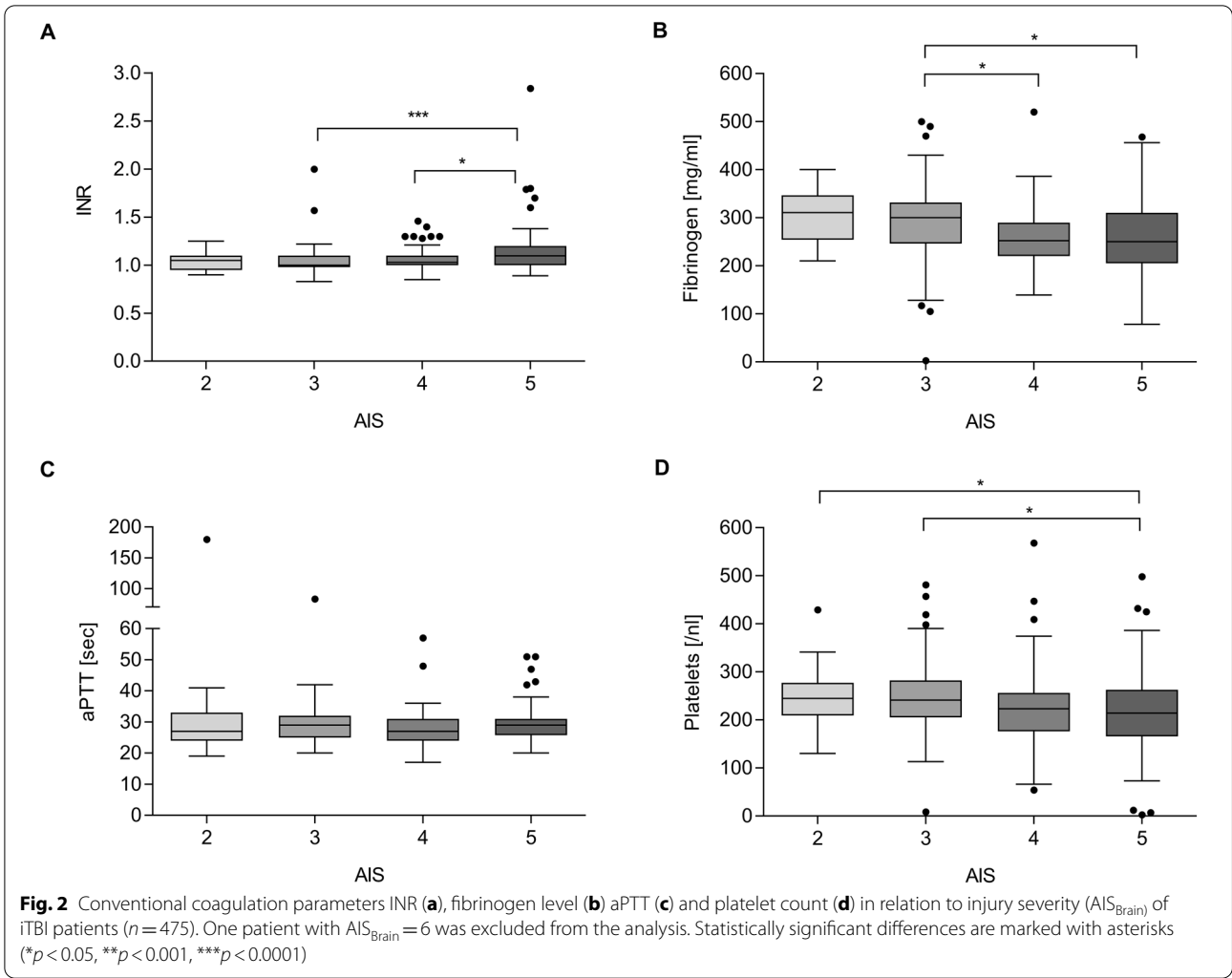
AIS Abbreviated Injury Scale, aPTT activated partial thromboplastin time, ED Emergency department, GCS Glasgow Coma Scale, GOS-E Glasgow Outcome Score-Extended, INR International Normalized Ratio, SBP Systolic blood pressure

In contrast to the univariate analysis ( $p=0.016$ ), hypoxia could not be identified as a risk factor in the multivariate analysis ( $p=0.138$ ) (Table 4, Table 5). However, hypoxia was only documented in 20 iTBI patients.

## Discussion

The characterisation of haemostatic abnormalities which occur in the context of isolated TBI informs our knowledge and may promote a more effective clinical risk assessment and management during the early course after trauma. The cohort analysed in the present study had a median age of 52 years, with almost one out of five patients being 75 years of age or older. For over 20% of the cohort pre-injury anticoagulant and/or anti-platelet agents, intake was documented. The mortality of the entire iTBI cohort was 16.4% and almost every

fifth patient required an emergency surgical intervention. Overall, the presence of coagulopathy in the acute phase of iTBI based upon conventional coagulation parameters was observed in about 20% of all patients with iTBI. In previous reports, the prevalence of coagulopathy in TBI patients with and without extracranial injuries patients upon hospital admission was variable ranging from 7 to 63% [5]. The reported prevalence in all cases was highly dependent on how both TBI and coagulopathy were defined, the sensitivity of the coagulation assays used, the time point after injury at which the coagulation system was assessed and the range of injury severity [9, 13–16]. We used conventional coagulation plasma based assays to assess the degree of coagulopathy in our cohort. However, prothrombin time and aPTT assays only provide a rather incomplete assessment of a patient's current haemostatic capacity



[17]. Although viscoelastic testing, such as TEG and ROTEM, allows a more detailed analysis of the coagulation system in time, data based on this technology were only available in a small proportion of iTBI patients from the CENTER-TBI study core documentation, thus precluding meaningful analysis. For this reason, the conventional parameters INR, aPTT and platelet count were used as primary outcome marker indicating coagulopathy using the thresholds based upon previous studies [5, 18, 19].

The frequency of haemostatic alterations which occur in the context of iTBI may increase with injury severity [5, 9]. In the present study,  $AIS_{Brain}$  was not an independent predictor of coagulopathy; however, a larger proportion of patients with severe head injury ( $AIS_{Brain} \geq 5$ ) displayed alterations as compared to those with lower magnitudes sustained. Coagulopathy has previously been reported more frequently in penetrating than in blunt brain injuries [9, 19, 20]. In

**Table 3 Overview of pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy in iTBI patients (n = 122)**

	iTBI patients with pre-injury antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant therapy n = 122	Coagulopathy n; [%]
Anticoagulants		
Vitamin K antagonists	37	31 [84]
Heparin	2	1 [50]
Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs)	12	2 [17]
Other anticoagulants	4	1 [25]
Platelet inhibitors		
ASS	43	4 [9]
Other platelet inhibitors*	23	3 [13]

Anticoagulants were defined as Vitamin K antagonist (Coumarin derivatives Coumadin or Warfarin), direct oral anticoagulants (Factor Xa inhibitor (e.g. Xarelto, Rivaroxaban), direct thrombin inhibitors (e.g. Dabigatran) and antithrombin protein inhibitor (e.g. ATryn). Platelet inhibitors mainly included acetylsalicylic acid (ASS). Patient specified with "Other" received platelet aggregation inhibitor such as Clopidogrel or Prasugrel. Data about specific pre-injury antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant therapy were missing for one case

\*Patients with dual platelet inhibitor therapy

the present study, less than 2% of iTBI patients had sustained a penetrating injury mechanism. Therefore, the prevalence of coagulopathy reported corresponds rather to its prevalence in the context of a blunt injury mechanism.

Previous reports indicated that coagulopathic TBI patients had a nine times higher mortality and 30 times higher risk of unfavourable outcome compared to non-coagulopathic TBI patients [2, 9]. In the present cohort, a significant increase in mortality among coagulopathic iTBI patients (25.3%) compared to non-coagulopathic patients (9.0%) was observed. A retrospective study based upon a large dataset from trauma patients including those with TBI revealed that patients with blunt TBI showing at least one abnormality in their coagulation profile had a higher mortality rate than non-coagulopathic TBI patients [20]. In line with these findings, the coagulation parameters of iTBI patients in the present study without pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy were significantly deteriorated with increasing severity of brain injury, e.g. the higher the AIS<sub>Brain</sub>, the higher the INR and the lower the fibrinogen levels and platelet counts.

Anticoagulant and antiplatelet agents appear to worsen outcome in iTBI. For every fifth iTBI patient in the present study (n = 122), pre-injury intake of anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet agents was documented. Anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet drugs are increasingly prescribed for several indications in the elderly [21]. Vice versa, epidemiological studies have confirmed that the highest incidence of TBI occurs in older adults with falls as the most common mechanism leading to severe head injuries [22–24]. In particular, patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet drugs are at increased risk

of developing a progressive haemorrhagic injury following a traumatic intracranial haemorrhage [5, 25–29]. In the present study, elderly iTBI patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet drugs had an almost twofold increased risk to establish haemostatic abnormalities than those without this risk factor (34% vs. 16%). It is conceivable that the increased haemostatic alteration risk in geriatric TBI patients is associated with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy. In the present study, iTBI patients with pre-injury medication of vitamin K antagonists displayed a higher risk to develop an abnormal coagulation profile compared to those with other pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy. Most likely, these patients have an exacerbated progress of TBI, severe complications and outcome due to their pre-existing with vitamin K antagonists. In line with these findings, retrospective studies described higher prevalence of spontaneous bleeding rates and worse outcome in elderly, vitamin K-antagonist treated iTBI patients compared to other anticoagulant agents and platelet inhibitors [30–32]. Despite both groups having a median AIS<sub>Brain</sub> = 4, haemostatic alteration was much more common among anticoagulated patients. If the risk factors for coagulopathy in iTBI patients with pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet drugs were similar to those not on these drugs remain speculative due to the limited numbers of patients in these subgroups precluding a meaningful analysis. The overall outcomes among elderly iTBI patients on pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet drugs in the present study were significantly worse compared to iTBI patients without anticoagulation therapy (mortality 35.2% in anticoagulated patients vs. 11.6% in non-anticoagulated patients).



**Table 4 Univariate analysis of potential risk factors associated with acute coagulopathy following iTBI of patients without pre-injury antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant therapy (n = 475)**

	No coagulopathy n = 400	Coagulopathy n = 75	p value
<b>Demographics</b>			
Age ≥ 75; n [%]	38 [9.5]	4 [5.3]	0.243
Male gender; n [%]	283 [70.8]	50 [66.7]	0.478
<b>Injury characteristics</b>			
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> severity			0.001
AIS 2; n [%]	50 [12.5]	5 [6.7]	
AIS 3; n [%]	143 [35.8]	21 [28.0]	
AIS 4; n [%]	115 [28.7]	15 [20.0]	
AIS ≥ 5; n [%]	92 [23.0]	34 [45.3]	
<b>Medical presentation at admission (ED)</b>			
GCS on admission			< 0.001
GCS ≥ 8; n [%]	249 [62.3]	25 [33.3]	
GCS ≤ 8; n [%]	49 [12.3]	22 [29.3]	
GCS unknown; n [%]	102 [25.5]	28 [37.3]	
Pupils [uni- or bilateral unreactive]; n [%]	29 [7.2]	17 [22.7]	< 0.001
Hypoxia; n [%]	13 [3.3]	7 [9.3]	0.016
Hypotension; n [%]	6 [1.5]	9 [12.0]	< 0.001
Hypothermia; n [%]	10 [2.5]	10 [13.3]	< 0.001
Neuroworsening; n [%]	48 [12.0]	8 [10.7]	0.742
<b>Laboratory tests</b>			
Arrival haemoglobin < 11; n [%]	16 [4.0]	3 [4.0]	0.742
Arrival Base Excess ≤ -6; n [%]	16 [4.0]	17 [22.7]	< 0.001
<b>Injuries identified on initial CT scan</b>			
Diffuse axonal injury; n [%]	39 [10.2]	10 [14.1]	0.338
Extradural haematoma; n [%]	77 [19.5]	11 [14.7]	0.321
Subdural haematoma; n [%]	160 [40.4]	37 [49.3]	0.151
Subarachnoid haemorrhage; n [%]	208 [52.4]	43 [57.3]	0.432
Midline shift; n [%]	77 [19.6]	22 [29.3]	0.058
Basal cistern compression; n [%]	40 [10.2]	19 [25.3]	< 0.001
Depressed skull fracture; n [%]	52 [13.1]	15 [20.0]	0.116
Severe contusion; n [%]	22 [5.6]	10 [13.3]	0.016

Systemic secondary insult parameters pre-hospital/at hospital admission were defined as following: hypotension with systolic blood pressure (SBP) < 90 mmHg, hypothermia with temperature < 35 °C and hypoxia with a PaO<sub>2</sub> < 8 kPa (60 mmHg) and/or a SaO<sub>2</sub> < 90%. Neuroworsening was defined as follows: (1) a decrease in GCS motor score of 2 or more points; (2) a new loss of pupillary reactivity or development of pupillary asymmetry ≥ 2 mm; (3) deterioration in neurological or CT status sufficient to warrant immediate medical or surgical intervention

AIS Abbreviated Injury Scale, CT computed tomography, ED Emergency department, GCS Glasgow Coma Scale

Clinical data from prospective observational studies and meta-analyses on TBI patients have been used to describe factors that characterise the development of TBI-associated coagulopathy [2, 20, 33, 34]. The results of both uni- and multivariate analyses obtained from the present study identified hypotension, deranged BE, hypothermia, low GCS and hypoxia being associated with coagulopathy in iTBI patients. With an odds ratio of 3.51, hypotension was the most strongly associated risk factor identified. The results from an earlier prospective study showed that iTBI patients only developed a coagulopathy in the presence of a hypotension, regardless of

head injury severity [35]. A base excess ≤ -6 suggests tissue hypoperfusion most likely to result from systemic hypotension which had an odds ratio of 3.11 indicating coagulopathy. Hypothermia was further identified as an associated risk factor for acute coagulopathy following iTBI with OR of 2.89. In previous studies of trauma patients, hypothermia has been a risk factor for mortality but not directly for coagulopathy [36, 37]. Hypothermia induces coagulopathy by causing deterioration of platelet function, reducing activity of coagulation factors and reducing fibrinogen synthesis all together with increased morbidity and mortality [38–40]. Hypoxia plays an

**Table 5 Independent risk factors associated with acute coagulopathy in iTBI of patients without pre-injury antiplatelet and/or anticoagulant therapy (n = 475)**

	Regression coefficient	Odds ratio (CI <sub>95</sub> )	p value
<b>Injury characteristics</b>			
AIS <sub>Brain</sub> severity			
AIS 3; n [%]	0.21	1.02 [0.45–2.31]	0.961
AIS 4; n [%]	−0.52	0.59 [0.23–1.49]	0.267
AIS ≥ 5; n [%]	−0.18	0.83 [0.30–2.29]	0.721
<b>Medical presentation at admission (ED)</b>			
GCS on admission			
GCS ≤ 8; n [%]	0.86	2.37 [1.20–4.69]	0.013
GCS unknown; n [%]	0.45	1.57 [0.87–2.85]	0.133
Pupils [uni- or bilateral unreactive]; n [%]	0.47	1.59 [0.78–3.24]	0.197
Hypoxia; n [%]	0.74	2.09 [0.79–5.57]	0.138
Hypotension; n [%]	1.25	3.51 [1.25–9.83]	0.017
Hypothermia; n [%]	1.06	2.89 [1.11–7.58]	0.030
<b>Laboratory test</b>			
Arrival base excess ≤ −6; n [%]	1.13	3.11 [1.33–7.26]	0.009
No arrival base excess ≤ −6; n [%]	−0.92	0.91 [0.54–1.53]	0.729
<b>Injuries identified on initial CT scan</b>			
Midline shift; n [%]	0.50	1.65 [0.94–2.90]	0.830
Basal cistern compression; n [%]	−0.009	0.99 [0.49–2.01]	0.980
Depressed skull fracture; n [%]	−0.004	0.99 [0.51–1.93]	0.991
Severe contusion; n [%]	0.24	1.27 [0.56–2.89]	0.558

Systemic secondary insult parameters pre-hospital/at hospital admission were defined as following: hypotension with systolic blood pressure (SBP) < 90 mmHg, hypothermia with temperature < 35 °C and hypoxia with a PaO<sub>2</sub> < 8 kPa (60 mmHg) and/or a SaO<sub>2</sub> < 90%. In nine cases, data were missing for multivariate analysis

AIS Abbreviated Injury Scale, CT computed tomography, ED Emergency department, GCS Glasgow Coma Scale

important role in worsening outcome in TBI as it may cause cerebral inflammation and the release of cytokines, augmenting further secondary brain injury [41, 42]. In the present study, hypoxia was identified as another risk factor indicating coagulopathy and poor outcome following iTBI (OR 2.09). In contrast to the univariate analysis ( $p=0.016$ ), hypoxia could not be statistically identified as risk factor in the multivariate analysis ( $p=0.138$ ). The difference in  $p$  values was marginal but exceeded  $p=0.05$ . On the one hand, the variance of  $p$  values in the multivariate model was probably attenuated by correlation with other variables, hereby changing the effects (odds ratios) and  $p$  values of the other predictors. Thus, it may be that hypoxic patients showed other physical findings that may be captured in the model, so that the effect may differ from the univariate effect. On the other hand, hypoxia was observed in only 20 patients providing a further limitation leading to increased  $p$  values. Nevertheless, we consider that hypoxia is indeed a risk factor for coagulopathy, with an odds ratio of 2.09, but our data are not sufficient to prove this with 95% certainty.

Last but not least, GCS ≤ 8 at hospital admission was identified as an independent risk factor for acute coagulopathy in iTBI patients in this study. Other studies

which have linked altered GCS with coagulopathy have proposed that injury to the brain itself may induce coagulation disturbances [5, 20, 43]. In a multivariate analysis of iTBI patients from the German Trauma Registry (TR-DGU®), a low GCS (≤ 8) was identified as an independent risk factor for coagulopathy after TBI [20]. It was also concluded that a lower GCS may correlate with a higher risk of neurological decline in iTBI patients with coagulopathy [20]. Related to the identified risk factors, we cannot exclude volume substitution as well as receipt of blood products or haemostatic agents during early prehospital care as a potential cofounder that may have altered haemostatic capacity in the severely injured patients, as a prehospital data collection was not part of the CENTER-TBI core study. Likewise, early in-hospital blood product administration prior to any laboratory coagulation testing was marginally evaluated and precluded a more detailed analysis at this stage. The predictors identified in this study could be used in clinical settings to identify high-risk patients earlier. The results could also support in defining the course and the severity of coagulopathy following iTBI.

## Limitations

The present study is the first report on haemostatic alterations occurring in the context of iTBI based upon data from the longitudinal, observational CENTER-TBI core study cohort. The results confirm previous findings on demographics, clinical presentation and coagulation status during the acute phase, e.g. within 4 h, after iTBI. Future analyses will now more thoroughly investigate the coagulation abnormalities encountered in this unique and highly detailed patient dataset. The limitations to the given study apart from those inherent to retrospective analysis of a large prospectively collected dataset include that the recruitment to the CENTER-TBI core study was not consecutive and was determined by site logistics and research interests. This means that patient selection bias may be possible. Likewise, coagulation parameters beyond those used for conventional testing, in particular those potentially reflecting functional deficits, were only marginally captured and precluded more in-depth analysis at this stage. This also refers to the completeness of the datasets analysed as data collection was performed over 4 years. However, among variables considered for this analysis, there was little missing data. The reported associations remain purely descriptive. It can certainly not be concluded from the present analysis whether the observed coagulopathy was the result of the iTBI itself or the precipitating factor that led to a worsening of the clinical situation along with iTBI.

## Conclusion

The prevalence of coagulopathy in iTBI patients on pre-injury anticoagulant and/or antiplatelet therapy was significantly higher than in patients without anticoagulant therapy. Independent risk factors associated with acute coagulopathy in iTBI included systolic hypotension, base excess, hypothermia, reduced GCS on ED admission and hypoxia. The acknowledgement and assessment of these risk factors could be helpful in clinical practice for the early identification of TBI-associated coagulopathy, resulting in the expeditious provision of appropriate, targeted clinical management. It remains to be determined whether coagulopathy seen was the result of the iTBI itself or a precipitating factor for neuroworsening.

## Author details

<sup>1</sup> Department of Medicine, Faculty of Health, Institute for Research in Operative Medicine, Witten/Herdecke University, Ostmerheimer Str. 200, Building 38, 51109 Cologne, Germany. <sup>2</sup> Emergency and Trauma Centre, Alfred Health, 55 Commercial Road, Melbourne, VIC 3004, Australia. <sup>3</sup> Department of Traumatology, Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Traumatology, Cologne-Merheim Medical Centre (CMMC), Witten/Herdecke University, Campus Cologne-Merheim, Ostmerheimer Str. 200, 51109 Cologne, Germany. <sup>4</sup> Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, AUVA Trauma Hospital, Academic Teaching Hospital of the Paracelsus Medical University, Doktor-Franz-Rehrl-Platz 5, 5010 Salzburg,

Austria. <sup>5</sup> Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Experimental and Clinical Traumatology, AUVA Research Centre, Donaueschingenstr. 13, 1200 Vienna, Austria. <sup>6</sup> Department of Anaesthesiology, RWTH Aachen University Hospital, Pauwelsstraße 30, 52074 Aachen, Germany. <sup>7</sup> NHS Blood and Transplant, Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Headley Way, OX3 9DU Oxford, UK.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all CENTER-TBI centres, participants and investigators for all their efforts realising this project.

The CENTER-TBI Participants and Investigators: Cecilia Åkerlund<sup>1</sup>, Krisztina Amrein<sup>2</sup>, Nada Andelic<sup>3</sup>, Lasse Andreassen<sup>4</sup>, Audny Anke<sup>5</sup>, Anna Antoni<sup>6</sup>, Gérard Audibert<sup>7</sup>, Philippe Azouvi<sup>8</sup>, Maria Luisa Azzolini<sup>9</sup>, Ronald Bartels<sup>10</sup>, Pál Barzó<sup>11</sup>, Romuald Beauvais<sup>12</sup>, Ronny Beer<sup>13</sup>, Bo-Michael Bellander<sup>14</sup>, Antonio Belli<sup>15</sup>, Habib Benali<sup>16</sup>, Maurizio Berardino<sup>17</sup>, Luigi Beretta<sup>9</sup>, Morten Blaabjerg<sup>18</sup>, Peter Bragge<sup>19</sup>, Alexandra Brazinova<sup>20</sup>, Vibeke Brinck<sup>21</sup>, Joanne Brooker<sup>22</sup>, Camilla Brorsson<sup>23</sup>, Andras Buki<sup>24</sup>, Monika Bullinger<sup>25</sup>, Manuel Cabeleira<sup>26</sup>, Alessio Caccioppola<sup>27</sup>, Emiliana Calappi<sup>27</sup>, Maria Rosa Calvi<sup>9</sup>, Peter Cameron<sup>28</sup>, Guillermo Carbayo Lozano<sup>29</sup>, Marco Carbonara<sup>27</sup>, Simona Cavallo<sup>17</sup>, Giorgio Chevallard<sup>30</sup>, Arturo Chierogato<sup>30</sup>, Giuseppe Citerio<sup>31,32</sup>, Iris Ceyisakar<sup>33</sup>, Hans Clusmann<sup>34</sup>, Mark Coburn<sup>35</sup>, Jonathan Coles<sup>36</sup>, Jamie D. Cooper<sup>37</sup>, Marta Correia<sup>38</sup>, Amra Čović<sup>39</sup>, Nicola Curry<sup>40</sup>, Endre Czeiter<sup>24</sup>, Marek Czosnyka<sup>26</sup>, Claire Dahyot-Fizelier<sup>41</sup>, Paul Dark<sup>42</sup>, Helen Dawes<sup>43</sup>, Véronique De Keyser<sup>44</sup>, Vincent Degos<sup>15</sup>, Francesco Della Corte<sup>45</sup>, Hugo den Boogert<sup>10</sup>, Bart Depreiter<sup>46</sup>, Đula Dilvesi<sup>47</sup>, Abhishek Dixit<sup>48</sup>, Emma Donoghue<sup>22</sup>, Jens Dreier<sup>49</sup>, Guy-Loup Dulière<sup>50</sup>, Ari Ercole<sup>48</sup>, Patrick Esser<sup>43</sup>, Erzsébet Ezer<sup>51</sup>, Martin Fabricius<sup>52</sup>, Valery L. Feigin<sup>53</sup>, Kelly Foks<sup>54</sup>, Shirin Frisvold<sup>55</sup>, Alex Furmanov<sup>56</sup>, Pablo Gagliardo<sup>57</sup>, Damien Galanaud<sup>16</sup>, Dashiell Gantner<sup>28</sup>, Guoyi Gao<sup>58</sup>, Pradeep George<sup>59</sup>, Alexandre Ghuysen<sup>60</sup>, Lelde Giga<sup>61</sup>, Ben Glocker<sup>62</sup>, Jagoš Golubovic<sup>47</sup>, Pedro A. Gomez<sup>63</sup>, Johannes Gratz<sup>64</sup>, Benjamin Gravesteijn<sup>33</sup>, Francesca Grossi<sup>45</sup>, Russell L. Gruen<sup>65</sup>, Deepak Gupta<sup>66</sup>, Juanita A. Haagsma<sup>33</sup>, Iain Haitsma<sup>67</sup>, Raimund Helbok<sup>13</sup>, Eirik Helseth<sup>68</sup>, Lindsay Horton<sup>69</sup>, Jilke Huijben<sup>33</sup>, Peter J. Hutchinson<sup>70</sup>, Bram Jacobs<sup>71</sup>, Stefan Jankowski<sup>72</sup>, Mike Jarrett<sup>21</sup>, Ji-yao Jiang<sup>58</sup>, Faye Johnson<sup>73</sup>, Kelly Jones<sup>53</sup>, Mladen Karan<sup>47</sup>, Angelos G. Kolias<sup>70</sup>, Erwin Kompanje<sup>74</sup>, Daniel Kondziella<sup>52</sup>, Evgenios Koraropoulos<sup>48</sup>, Lars-Owe Koskinen<sup>75</sup>, Noémi Kovács<sup>76</sup>, Ana Kowark<sup>35</sup>, Alfonso Lagares<sup>63</sup>, Linda Lanyon<sup>59</sup>, Steven Laureys<sup>77</sup>, Fiona Lecky<sup>78,79</sup>, Didier Ledoux<sup>77</sup>, Rolf Lefering<sup>80</sup>, Valérie Legrand<sup>81</sup>, Aurélie Lejeune<sup>82</sup>, Leon Levi<sup>83</sup>, Roger Lightfoot<sup>84</sup>, Hester Lingsma<sup>33</sup>, Andrew I. R. Maas<sup>44</sup>, Ana M. Castaño-León<sup>63</sup>, Marc Maegele<sup>85</sup>, Marek Majdan<sup>20</sup>, Alex Manara<sup>86</sup>, Geoffrey Manley<sup>87</sup>, Costanza Martino<sup>88</sup>, Hugues Maréchal<sup>50</sup>, Julia Mattern<sup>89</sup>, Catherine McMahon<sup>90</sup>, Béla Meleghe<sup>91</sup>, David Menon<sup>48</sup>, Tomas Menovsky<sup>44</sup>, Ana Mikolic<sup>33</sup>, Benoit Misset<sup>77</sup>, Visakh Muraleedharan<sup>59</sup>, Lynnette Murray<sup>28</sup>, Ancuta Negru<sup>92</sup>, David Nelson<sup>1</sup>, Virginia Newcombe<sup>48</sup>, Daan Nieboer<sup>33</sup>, József Nyírádi<sup>2</sup>, Otesile Olubukola<sup>78</sup>, Matej Oresic<sup>93</sup>, Fabrizio Ortolano<sup>27</sup>, Aarno Palotie<sup>94,95,96</sup>, Paul M. Parizel<sup>97</sup>, Jean-François Payen<sup>98</sup>, Natascha Perera<sup>12</sup>, Vincent Perlbarg<sup>16</sup>, Paolo Persona<sup>99</sup>, Wilco Peul<sup>100</sup>, Anna Piippo-Karjalainen<sup>101</sup>, Matti Pirinen<sup>94</sup>, Horia Ples<sup>92</sup>, Suzanne Polinder<sup>33</sup>, Inigo Pomposo<sup>29</sup>, Jussi P. Posti<sup>102</sup>, Louis Puybasset<sup>103</sup>, Andreea Radoi<sup>104</sup>, Arminas Ragauskas<sup>105</sup>, Rahul Raj<sup>101</sup>, Malinka Rambadagalla<sup>106</sup>, Jonathan Rhodes<sup>107</sup>, Sylvia Richardson<sup>108</sup>, Sophie Richter<sup>48</sup>, Samuli Ripatti<sup>94</sup>, Saulius Rocka<sup>105</sup>, Cecillie Roe<sup>109</sup>, Olav Roise<sup>110,111</sup>, Jonathan Rosand<sup>112</sup>, Jeffrey V. Rosenfeld<sup>113</sup>, Christina Rosenlund<sup>114</sup>, Guy Rosenthal<sup>56</sup>, Rolf Rossaint<sup>35</sup>, Sandra Rossi<sup>99</sup>, Daniel Rueckert<sup>62</sup>, Martin Rusnák<sup>115</sup>, Juan Sahuquillo<sup>104</sup>, Oliver Sakowitz<sup>89,116</sup>, Renan Sanchez-Porras<sup>116</sup>, Janos Sandor<sup>117</sup>, Nadine Schäfer<sup>80</sup>, Silke Schmidt<sup>118</sup>, Herbert Schoechl<sup>119</sup>, Guus Schoonman<sup>120</sup>, Rico Frederick Schou<sup>121</sup>, Elisabeth Schwendenwein<sup>6</sup>, Charlie Sewalt<sup>33</sup>, Toril Skandensen<sup>122,123</sup>, Peter Smielewski<sup>26</sup>, Abayomi Sorinola<sup>124</sup>, Emmanouel Stamatakis<sup>48</sup>, Simon Stanworth<sup>40</sup>, Robert Stevens<sup>125</sup>, William Stewart<sup>126</sup>, Ewout W. Steyerberg<sup>33,127</sup>, Nino Stocchetti<sup>128</sup>, Nina Sundström<sup>129</sup>, Anneliese Synnot<sup>22,130</sup>, Riikka Takala<sup>131</sup>, Viktória Tamás<sup>124</sup>, Tomas Tamosiutis<sup>132</sup>, Mark Steven Taylor<sup>20</sup>, Braden Te Ao<sup>53</sup>, Olli Tenovuo<sup>102</sup>, Alice Theadom<sup>53</sup>, Matt Thomas<sup>86</sup>, Dick Tibboel<sup>133</sup>, Marjolein Timmers<sup>74</sup>, Christos Tolia<sup>134</sup>, Tony Trapani<sup>28</sup>, Cristina Maria Tudora<sup>92</sup>, Andreas Unterberg<sup>89</sup>, Peter Vajkoczy<sup>135</sup>, Shirley Vallance<sup>28</sup>, Egils Valeinis<sup>61</sup>, Zoltán Vámos<sup>51</sup>, Mathieu van der Jagt<sup>136</sup>, Gregory Van der Steen<sup>44</sup>, Joukje van der Naalt<sup>71</sup>, Jeroen T.J.M. van Dijk<sup>100</sup>, Thomas A. van Esden<sup>100</sup>, Wim Van Hecke<sup>137</sup>, Caroline van Heugten<sup>138</sup>, Dominique Van Praag<sup>139</sup>, Thijs Vande Vyvere<sup>137</sup>, Roel P. J. van Wijk<sup>100</sup>, Alessia Vargiolu<sup>32</sup>, Emmanuel Vega<sup>82</sup>, Kimberley Velt<sup>33</sup>, Jan Verheyden<sup>137</sup>, Paul M. Vespa<sup>140</sup>, Anne Vik<sup>122,141</sup>, Rimantas Vilcinis<sup>132</sup>, Victor Volovic<sup>67</sup>, Nicole von Steinbüchel<sup>39</sup>, Daphne Voormolen<sup>33</sup>, Petar Vulekovic<sup>47</sup>, Kevin K. W. Wang<sup>142</sup>, Eveline Wieggers<sup>33</sup>, Guy Williams<sup>48</sup>, Lindsay Wilson<sup>69</sup>, Stefan Winzeck<sup>48</sup>, Stefan Wolf<sup>143</sup>, Zhihui Yang<sup>142</sup>, Peter Ylén<sup>144</sup>, Alexander Youns<sup>89</sup>, Frederick A. Zeiler<sup>48,145</sup>, Veronika Zelinkova<sup>20</sup>,

Agate Ziverte<sup>61</sup>, Tommaso Zoerle<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Section of Perioperative Medicine and Intensive Care, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, <sup>2</sup>János Szentágotthai Research Centre, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, <sup>3</sup>Division of Surgery and Clinical Neuroscience, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Oslo University Hospital and University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, <sup>4</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Northern Norway, Tromsø, Norway, <sup>5</sup>Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, University Hospital Northern Norway, Tromsø, Norway, <sup>6</sup>Trauma Surgery, Medical University Vienna, Vienna, Austria, <sup>7</sup>Department of Anesthesiology & Intensive Care, University Hospital Nancy, Nancy, France, <sup>8</sup>Raymond Poincare hospital, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France, <sup>9</sup>Department of Anesthesiology & Intensive Care, S Raffaele University Hospital, Milan, Italy, <sup>10</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, <sup>11</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary, <sup>12</sup>International Projects Management, ARTTIC, Munchen, Germany, <sup>13</sup>Department of Neurology, Neurological Intensive Care Unit, Medical University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, <sup>14</sup>Department of Neurosurgery & Anesthesia & intensive care medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden, <sup>15</sup>NIHR Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology Research Centre, Birmingham, UK, <sup>16</sup>Anesthésie-Réanimation, Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France, <sup>17</sup>Department of Anesthesia & ICU, AOU Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino - Orthopedic and Trauma Center, Torino, Italy, <sup>18</sup>Department of Neurology, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark, <sup>19</sup>BehaviourWorks Australia, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University, Victoria, Australia, <sup>20</sup>Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences and Social Work, Trnava University, Trnava, Slovakia, <sup>21</sup>Qesgen Systems Inc., Burlingame, California, USA, <sup>22</sup>Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, <sup>23</sup>Department of Surgery and Perioperative Science, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden, <sup>24</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School, University of Pécs, Hungary and Neurotrauma Research Group, János Szentágotthai Research Centre, University of Pécs, Hungary, <sup>25</sup>Department of Medical Psychology, Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany, <sup>26</sup>Brain Physics Lab, Division of Neurosurgery, Dept of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK, <sup>27</sup>Neuro ICU, Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy, <sup>28</sup>ANZIC Research Centre, Monash University, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, <sup>29</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital of Cruces, Bilbao, Spain, <sup>30</sup>NeuroIntensive Care, Niguarda Hospital, Milan, Italy, <sup>31</sup>School of Medicine and Surgery, Università Milano Bicocca, Milano, Italy, <sup>32</sup>NeuroIntensive Care, ASST di Monza, Monza, Italy, <sup>33</sup>Department of Public Health, Erasmus Medical Center-University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, <sup>34</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Medical Faculty RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany, <sup>35</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology, University Hospital of Aachen, Aachen, Germany, <sup>36</sup>Department of Anesthesia & Neurointensive Care, Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridge, UK, <sup>37</sup>School of Public Health & PM, Monash University and The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, <sup>38</sup>Radiology/MRI department, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, UK, <sup>39</sup>Institute of Medical Psychology and Medical Sociology, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, <sup>40</sup>Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford, UK, <sup>41</sup>Intensive Care Unit, CHU Poitiers, Poitiers, France, <sup>42</sup>University of Manchester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Critical Care Directorate, Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Salford, UK, <sup>43</sup>Movement Science Group, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK, <sup>44</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Antwerp University Hospital and University of Antwerp, Edegem, Belgium, <sup>45</sup>Department of Anesthesia & Intensive Care, Maggiore Della Carità Hospital, Novara, Italy, <sup>46</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospitals Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, <sup>47</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Clinical centre of Vojvodina, Faculty of Medicine, University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad, Serbia, <sup>48</sup>Division of Anaesthesia, University of Cambridge, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, UK, <sup>49</sup>Center for Stroke Research Berlin, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, corporate member of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Berlin Institute of Health, Berlin, Germany, <sup>50</sup>Intensive Care Unit, CHR Citadelle, Liège, Belgium, <sup>51</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Therapy, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, <sup>52</sup>Departments of Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology and Neuroanesthesiology, Region Hovedstaden Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark, <sup>53</sup>National Institute for

Stroke and Applied Neurosciences, Faculty of Health and Environmental Studies, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand, <sup>54</sup>Department of Neurology, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, <sup>55</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive care, University Hospital Northern Norway, Tromsø, Norway, <sup>56</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Hadassah-hebrew University Medical center, Jerusalem, Israel, <sup>57</sup>Fundación Instituto Valenciano de Neurorehabilitación (FIVAN), Valencia, Spain, <sup>58</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Shanghai Renji hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University/school of medicine, Shanghai, China, <sup>59</sup>Karolinska Institutet, INCF International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility, Stockholm, Sweden, <sup>60</sup>Emergency Department, CHU, Liège, Belgium, <sup>61</sup>Neurosurgery clinic, Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital, Riga, Latvia, <sup>62</sup>Department of Computing, Imperial College London, London, UK, <sup>63</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain, <sup>64</sup>Department of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, Medical University of Vienna, Austria, <sup>65</sup>College of Health and Medicine, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, <sup>66</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Neurosciences Centre & JPN Apex trauma centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi-110029, India, <sup>67</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, <sup>68</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, <sup>69</sup>Division of Psychology, University of Stirling, Stirling, UK, <sup>70</sup>Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Addenbrooke's Hospital & University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK, <sup>71</sup>Department of Neurology, University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands, <sup>72</sup>Neurointensive Care, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield, UK, <sup>73</sup>Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Acute Research Delivery Team, Salford, UK, <sup>74</sup>Department of Intensive Care and Department of Ethics and Philosophy of Medicine, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, <sup>75</sup>Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Neurosurgery, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden, <sup>76</sup>Hungarian Brain Research Program - Grant No. KTIA\_13\_NAP-A-II/8, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, <sup>77</sup>Cyclotron Research Center, University of Liège, Liège, Belgium, <sup>78</sup>Centre for Urgent and Emergency Care Research (CURE), Health Services Research Section, School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR), University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK, <sup>79</sup>Emergency Department, Salford Royal Hospital, Salford, UK, <sup>80</sup>Institute of Research in Operative Medicine (IFOM), Witten/Herdecke University, Cologne, Germany, <sup>81</sup>VP Global Project Management CNS, ICON, Paris, France, <sup>82</sup>Department of Anesthesiology-Intensive Care, Lille University Hospital, Lille, France, <sup>83</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Rambam Medical Center, Haifa, Israel, <sup>84</sup>Department of Anesthesiology & Intensive Care, University Hospitals Southampton NHS Trust, Southampton, UK, <sup>85</sup>Cologne-Merheim Medical Center (CMMC), Department of Traumatology, Orthopedic Surgery and Sportmedicine, Witten/Herdecke University, Cologne, Germany, <sup>86</sup>Intensive Care Unit, Southmead Hospital, Bristol, Bristol, UK, <sup>87</sup>Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, California, USA, <sup>88</sup>Department of Anesthesia & Intensive Care, M. Bufalini Hospital, Cesena, Italy, <sup>89</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany, <sup>90</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, The Walton centre NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool, UK, <sup>91</sup>Department of Medical Genetics, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, <sup>92</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Emergency County Hospital Timisoara, Timisoara, Romania, <sup>93</sup>School of Medical Sciences, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden, <sup>94</sup>Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland, <sup>95</sup>Analytic and Translational Genetics Unit, Department of Medicine; Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit, Department of Psychiatry; Department of Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, USA, <sup>96</sup>Program in Medical and Population Genetics; The Stanley Center for Psychiatric Research, The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA, <sup>97</sup>Department of Radiology, University of Antwerp, Edegem, Belgium, <sup>98</sup>Department of Anesthesiology & Intensive Care, University Hospital of Grenoble, Grenoble, France, <sup>99</sup>Department of Anesthesia & Intensive Care, Azienda Ospedaliera Università di Padova, Padova, Italy, <sup>100</sup>Dept. of Neurosurgery, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands and Dept. of Neurosurgery, Medical Center Haaglanden, The Hague, The Netherlands, <sup>101</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Helsinki University Central Hospital, <sup>102</sup>Division of Clinical Neurosciences, Department of Neurosurgery and Turku Brain Injury Centre, Turku University Hospital and University of Turku, Turku, Finland, <sup>103</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Pitié-Salpêtrière Teaching Hospital, Assistance Publique, Hôpitaux de Paris and University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, France, <sup>104</sup>Neurotraumatology and Neurosurgery Research Unit (UNINN), Vall d'Hebron Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain, <sup>105</sup>Department of

Neurosurgery, Kaunas University of technology and Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania, <sup>106</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Rezekne Hospital, Latvia, <sup>107</sup>Department of Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine NHS Lothian & University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK, <sup>108</sup>Director, MRC Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge Institute of Public Health, Cambridge, UK, <sup>109</sup>Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Oslo University Hospital/University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, <sup>110</sup>Division of Orthopedics, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway, <sup>111</sup>Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, <sup>112</sup>Broad Institute, Cambridge MA Harvard Medical School, Boston MA, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston MA, USA, <sup>113</sup>National Trauma Research Institute, The Alfred Hospital, Monash University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, <sup>114</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark, <sup>115</sup>International Neurotrauma Research Organisation, Vienna, Austria, <sup>116</sup>Klinik für Neurochirurgie, Klinikum Ludwigsburg, Ludwigsburg, Germany, <sup>117</sup>Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Debrecen, Debrecen, Hungary, <sup>118</sup>Department Health and Prevention, University Greifswald, Greifswald, Germany, <sup>119</sup>Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, AUA Trauma Hospital, Salzburg, Austria, <sup>120</sup>Department of Neurology, Elisabeth-TweeSteden Ziekenhuis, Tilburg, the Netherlands, <sup>121</sup>Department of Neuroanesthesia and Neurointensive Care, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark, <sup>122</sup>Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway, <sup>123</sup>Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, St.Olavs Hospital, Trondheim University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway, <sup>124</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary, <sup>125</sup>Division of Neuroscience Critical Care, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, USA, <sup>126</sup>Department of Neuropathology, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital and University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK, <sup>127</sup>Dept. of Department of Biomedical Data Sciences, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands, <sup>128</sup>Department of Pathophysiology and Transplantation, Milan University, and Neuroscience ICU, Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milano, Italy, <sup>129</sup>Department of Radiation Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden, <sup>130</sup>Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group, Centre for Health Communication and Participation, School of Psychology and Public Health, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, <sup>131</sup>Perioperative Services, Intensive Care Medicine and Pain Management, Turku University Hospital and University of Turku, Turku, Finland, <sup>132</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Kaunas University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania, <sup>133</sup>Intensive Care and Department of Pediatric Surgery, Erasmus Medical Center, Sophia Children's Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, <sup>134</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Kings college London, London, UK, <sup>135</sup>Neurologie, Neurochirurgie und Psychiatrie, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany, <sup>136</sup>Department of Intensive Care Adults, Erasmus MC – University Medical Center Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, <sup>137</sup>icoMetrix NV, Leuven, Belgium, <sup>138</sup>Movement Science Group, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK, <sup>139</sup>Psychology Department, Antwerp University Hospital, Edegem, Belgium, <sup>140</sup>Director of Neurocritical Care, University of California, Los Angeles, USA, <sup>141</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, St.Olavs Hospital, Trondheim University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway, <sup>142</sup>Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA, <sup>143</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, corporate member of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Berlin Institute of Health, Berlin, Germany, <sup>144</sup>VTT Technical Research Centre, Tampere, Finland, <sup>145</sup>Section of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada.

#### Author's Contribution

Data were acquired, analysed and interpreted by JB, VR, ST, HG, NS and MM. Statistical expertise was provided by RL, HS, OG, RR, SS and NC contributed to the conception of the study, providing scientific support and critically revised the data. The manuscript was written by JB and has been critically reviewed by all authors. Supervision was provided by MM. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

#### Source of Support

Open Access funding enabled and organized by Projekt DEAL. The research described above was supported by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under Grant Agreement No. 602150 (CENTER-TBI).

#### Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

#### Consent to participate

The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is not under consideration by another journal.

#### Ethics Approval

As part of the CENTER-TBI core study, the present analysis was performed in accordance with relevant local ethics and European law.

#### Open Access

This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

#### Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 16 July 2020 Accepted: 3 November 2020

Published online: 11 December 2020

#### References

- Hyder AA, Wunderlich CA, Puvanachandra P, Gururaj G, Kobusingye OC. The impact of traumatic brain injuries: a global perspective. *NeuroRehabilitation*. 2007;22(5):341–53.
- Harhangi BS, Kompanje EJO, Leebeek FWG, Maas AIR. Coagulation disorders after traumatic brain injury. *Acta Neurochir (Wien)*. 2008;150(2):165–75.
- Hoyt DB. A clinical review of bleeding dilemmas in trauma. In: *Seminars in hematology*;2004, p. 40–3.
- Zhang J, Jiang R, Liu L, Watkins T, Zhang F, Dong JF. Traumatic brain injury-associated coagulopathy. *J Neurotrauma*. 2012;29(17):2597–605.
- Maegele M, Schöchl H, Menovsky T, et al. Coagulopathy and haemorrhagic progression in traumatic brain injury: advances in mechanisms, diagnosis, and management. *Lancet Neurol*. 2017;16(8):630–47.
- Laroche M, Kutcher ME, Huang MC, Cohen MJ, Manley GT. Coagulopathy after traumatic brain injury. *Neurosurgery*. 2012;70(6):1334–45.
- Chen H, Xue LX, Guo Y, et al. The influence of hemocoagulation disorders on the development of posttraumatic cerebral infarction and outcome in patients with moderate or severe head trauma. *Biomed Res Int*. 2013. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/685174>.
- Sun Y, Wang J, Wu X, et al. Validating the incidence of coagulopathy and disseminated intravascular coagulation in patients with traumatic brain injury—analysis of 242 cases. *Br J Neurosurg*. 2011;25(3):363–8.
- Talving P, Benfield R, Hadjizacharia P, Inaba K, Chan LS, Demetriades D. Coagulopathy in severe traumatic brain injury: a prospective study. *J Trauma Inj Infect Crit Care*. 2009;66(1):55–61.
- Yuan Q, Sun YR, Wu X, et al. Coagulopathy in traumatic brain injury and its correlation with progressive hemorrhagic injury: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Neurotrauma*. 2016;33(14):1279–91.
- Zhang D, Gong S, Jin H, et al. Coagulation parameters and risk of progressive hemorrhagic injury after traumatic brain injury: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Biomed Res Int*. 2015. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2015/261825>.
- Steyerberg EW, Wiegers E, Sewalt C, et al. Case-mix, care pathways, and outcomes in patients with traumatic brain injury in CENTER-TBI: a European prospective, multicentre, longitudinal, cohort study. *Lancet Neurol*. 2019;18(10):923–34.

13. Chhabra G, Rangarajan K, Subramanian A, Agrawal D, Sharma S, Mukhopadhyay AK. Hypofibrinogenemia in isolated traumatic brain injury in Indian patients. *Neurol India*. 2010;58(5):756–7.
14. Shehata M, Afify I, El-Shafie M, Khaled M. Prevalence and clinical implications of coagulopathy in patients with isolated head trauma. *Med J Cairo Univ*. 2011;79(2):131–7.
15. Stein SC, Smith DH. Coagulopathy in traumatic brain injury. *Neurocrit Care*. 2004;1(4):479–88.
16. Zehtabchi S, Soghoian S, Liu Y, et al. The association of coagulopathy and traumatic brain injury in patients with isolated head injury. *Resuscitation*. 2008;76(1):52–6.
17. Chandler WL, Dunbar NM. Thrombin generation in trauma patients. *Transfusion*. 2009;49(12):2652–60.
18. Schöchl H, Solomon C, Traintinger S, et al. Thromboelastometric (ROTEM) findings in patients suffering from isolated severe traumatic brain injury. *J Neurotrauma*. 2011;28(10):2033–41.
19. Lustenberger T, Talving P, Kobayashi L, et al. Early coagulopathy after isolated severe traumatic brain injury: relationship with hypoperfusion challenged. *J Trauma Inj Infect Crit Care*. 2010;69(6):1410–4.
20. Wafaisade A, Lefering R, Tjardes T, et al. Acute coagulopathy in isolated blunt traumatic brain injury. *Neurocrit Care*. 2010;12(2):211–9.
21. Shoeb M, Fang MC. Assessing bleeding risk in patients taking anticoagulants. *J Thromb Thrombolysis*. 2013;35:312–9.
22. Gardner RC, Dams-O'Connor K, Morrissey MR, Manley GT. Geriatric traumatic brain injury: epidemiology, outcomes, knowledge gaps, and future directions. *J Neurotrauma*. 2018;35(7):889–906.
23. Harvey LA, Close JCT. Traumatic brain injury in older adults: characteristics, causes and consequences. *Injury*. 2012;43:1821–6.
24. Haring RS, Narang K, Canner JK, et al. Traumatic brain injury in the elderly: morbidity and mortality trends and risk factors. *J Surg Res*. 2015;195(1):1–9.
25. Tauber M, Koller H, Moroder P, Hitzl W, Resch H. Secondary intracranial hemorrhage after mild head injury in patients with low-dose acetylsalicylate acid prophylaxis. *J Trauma Inj Infect Crit Care*. 2009;67(3):521–5.
26. Nishijima DK, Offerman SR, Ballard DW, et al. Risk of traumatic intracranial hemorrhage in patients with head injury and preinjury warfarin or clopidogrel use. *Acad Emerg Med*. 2013;20(2):140–5.
27. Nishijima DK, Zehtabchi S, Berrong J, Legome E. Utility of platelet transfusion in adult patients with traumatic intracranial hemorrhage and preinjury antiplatelet use: a systematic review. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2012;72(6):1658–63.
28. Nishijima DK, Shahlaie K, Sarkar K, Rudisill N, Holmes JF. Risk of unfavorable long-term outcome in older adults with traumatic intracranial hemorrhage and anticoagulant or antiplatelet use. *Am J Emerg Med*. 2013;31(8):1244–7.
29. Joseph B, Pandit V, Aziz H, et al. Clinical outcomes in traumatic brain injury patients on preinjury clopidogrel: a prospective analysis. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2014;76(3):817–20.
30. Prexl O, Bruckbauer M, Voelckel W, et al. The impact of direct oral anti-coagulants in traumatic brain injury patients greater than 60-years-old. *Scand J Trauma Resusc Emerg Med*. 2018;26(1):20.
31. Grandhi R, Harrison G, Voronovich Z, et al. Preinjury warfarin, but not antiplatelet medications, increases mortality in elderly traumatic brain injury patients. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2015;78:614–21.
32. Dossett LA, Riesel JN, Griffin MR, Cotton BA. Prevalence and implications of preinjury warfarin use: an analysis of the National Trauma Databank. *Arch Surg*. 2011;146(5):565–70.
33. Epstein DS, Mitra B, O'Reilly G, Rosenfeld JV, Cameron PA. Acute traumatic coagulopathy in the setting of isolated traumatic brain injury: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Injury*. 2014;45(5):819–24.
34. Epstein DS, Mitra B, Cameron PA, Fitzgerald M, Rosenfeld JV. Acute traumatic coagulopathy in the setting of isolated traumatic brain injury: definition, incidence and outcomes. *Br J Neurosurg*. 2015;29(1):118–22.
35. Cohen MJ, Brohi K, Ganter MT, Manley GT, Mackersie RC, Pittet JF. Early coagulopathy after traumatic brain injury: the role of hypoperfusion and the protein c pathway. *J Trauma*. 2007;63(6):1254–62.
36. Waibel BH, Schlitzkus LL, Newell MA, Durham CA, Sagraves SG, Rotondo MF. Impact of hypothermia (below 36°C) in the rural trauma patient. *J Am Coll Surg*. 2009;209(5):580–8.
37. Lapostolle F, Couvreur J, Koch FX, et al. Hypothermia in trauma victims at first arrival of ambulance personnel: an observational study with assessment of risk factors. *Scand J Trauma Resusc Emerg Med*. 2017;25(1):43.
38. Perlman R, Callum J, Laflamme C, et al. A recommended early goal-directed management guideline for the prevention of hypothermia-related transfusion, morbidity, and mortality in severely injured trauma patients. *Crit Care*. 2016;20(1):107.
39. Hess JR, Brohi K, Dutton RP, et al. The coagulopathy of trauma: a review of mechanisms. *J Trauma Inj Infect Crit Care*. 2008;65(4):748–54.
40. Kaafarani HMA, Velmahos GC. Damage control resuscitation in trauma. *Scand J Surg*. 2014;103(2):81–8.
41. Yan EB, Satgunaseelan L, Paul E, et al. Post-traumatic hypoxia is associated with prolonged cerebral cytokine production, higher serum biomarker levels, and poor outcome in patients with severe traumatic brain injury. *J Neurotrauma*. 2014;31(7):618–29.
42. Davis DP, Meade W, Sise MJ, et al. Both hypoxemia and extreme hyperoxemia may be detrimental in patients with severe traumatic brain injury. *J Neurotrauma*. 2009;26(12):2217–23.
43. Scherer RU, Spangenberg P. Procoagulant activity in patients with isolated severe head trauma. *Crit Care Med*. 1998;26(1):149–56.