

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN A EUROPEAN HAND TRAUMA NETWORK

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DEFINITION OF HAND TRAUMA: Any closed or open injury to the wrist and/or the hand, substantially involving skin, muscle, tendon, bone and joint, nerve and/or vessels.

A HAND TRAUMA SURGEON is a surgeon who

1. has a significant involvement in hand trauma surgery,
2. is a member of a National Hand Surgery Society which is either a full or associate member of FESSH and
3. has an official microsurgical qualification.

A HAND TRAUMA CENTRE will provide a 24/24 emergency service, which is supported by at least 3 Hand Trauma Surgeons (as stated above) and rehabilitation services

One of these surgeons (not necessarily the clinical lead) will be a nominated HTC delegate who represents the center at the HTC and is responsible for all the communications with the HTC.

From 2019, at least one of the surgeons must have obtained the EBHS Diploma

The service should have access to adequate facilities for managing complex hand trauma including all of the following types of surgical techniques:

1. revascularization and replantation
2. flaps,
3. nerve repair

The number of treated cases should be at least 60 cases per 3 months per center, including 15 microsurgical cases (including nerve repair).

A HAND TRAUMA UNIT is defined as a department with at least two hand trauma surgeons (as stated above) who have access to daily operating facilities dedicated to hand trauma. The unit must be able to provide early, specialized rehabilitation.

In the future the EBHS Diploma for one of the surgeons will be essential.

Initially, Hand Trauma Centres who apply for accreditation will be subject to random auditing by the HTC of FESSH.

Our expectation is that all hand trauma centers and units joining the network will be involved in the critical evaluation of their performance by:

1. Collecting a database of patients treated
2. Monitoring outcomes of their treatments
3. Attendance at regular local morbidity meetings,
4. Delivering research publications
5. Delivering presentations to FESSH
6. Offering Teaching and Training opportunities such as microsurgical training, a teaching program, and fellowship opportunities.