

Duodenum

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Duodenal injury is frequently associated with injuries to the adjoining pancreas. Like the pancreas, the duodenum lies retroperitoneally and so injuries are hidden, discovered late or at laparotomy performed for other reasons. CT is the diagnostic modality of choice. The only sign may be gas or a fluid collection in the periduodenal tissue, and leakage of oral contrast, administration of which may improve accuracy of diagnosis. Smaller injuries can be repaired primarily. The first, third and fourth parts of the duodenum behave like small bowel and can be repaired in the same fashion. The second part of the duodenum is fixed to the head of the pancreas with a common blood supply and may have a poorer blood supply than the remainder. Major trauma, especially if the head of the pancreas is simultaneously injured, should be treated as part of a damage control procedure and be referred for definitive care. Duodenum

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