

# The response to patient factors

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Injuries presenting with increased frequency in an individual patient require special attention. Older patients, perhaps with multiple medical problems, can represent such a vulnerable group. The reduced bone mineral density making their Response to the mechanism of injury /uni25CF /uni25CF /uni25CF skeletons 'fragile' is associated with an increased risk of fracture. Hip fractures, wrist fractures, spinal fractures and pelvic fractures are just some of the many results following minimal trauma. The risk of fracture is increased with the presence of comorbidities such as visual impairment, Parkinsonism or transient ischaemic heart attacks. Consequently, knowing the parameters associated with a particular group of patients, attempts can be made to reduce the number of patients requiring treatment. For instance, prescription of bone protection therapy and addressing medical comorbidities early (e.g. cataract surgery) may help to reduce the number and severity of injuries sustained. Development of specific guidelines and protocols can facilitate the much-needed implementation of unified measures allowing easy patient access and treatment. Summary box 26.11 Response to patient factors /uni25CF /uni25CF /uni25CF

Be alert to identifying frequent patterns of injury Many stakeholders, including clinicians, should engage in injury prevention Legislation and education are essential Older patients may be vulnerable to injury, owing to poor bone stock and other comorbidities Bone protection treatment is essential Development of local and national guidelines to respond to patient factors is desirable

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Revision #1

Created 2025-12-31 15:12:00 UTC by Omar Ayman

Updated 2025-12-31 15:12:00 UTC by Omar Ayman