

## Key Session 5

### [O52] IMPROVING OUTCOMES IN OPEN FRACTURES

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There has been a steady evolution in our understanding of how and why open fractures become chronically infected. This has allowed us to offer better care and with a reduction in bone infection as well as an improvement in limb function. However, early thoughts on how to manage such injuries varied from applying wine soaked dressings to the encouragement of suppuration. The technical advances in modern Orthopaedic surgery and in Plastic surgery have allowed the possibility of salvaging limbs which would have been beyond saving some decades ago. I will discuss how we have become aware of the temporal relationships between surgical procedures and the avoidance of deep bone infection. The success of combined care has been firmly cemented in the ethos of severe limb trauma care as best practice and has culminated in the recommendations of Ortho-Plastic lists for the care of such patients by NICE. I will reflect on how this has been actioned in Bristol as a potential 'blueprint' for other major trauma centres.