

# Introduction

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Although patients with spinal cord injuries are small percentage of all trauma victims, yet the associated high rate of death is a concern.

The anesthesiologist may be involved in resuscitation of patient with spinal cord injury either in the acute phase, the intermediate phase, or the chronic phase.

- (a) Acute phase includes resuscitation in the emergency department, typically airway management, administration of anesthesia for acute decompression of the spinal cord to preserve or improve function and administration of anesthesia for surgical treatment of associated injuries.
- (b) Intermediate phase includes administration of anesthesia for stabilization of spinal column and also associated injuries.
- (c) Chronic phase includes administration of anesthesia to chronic spinal patient for related and surgical procedures.

The advent of techniques to monitor spinal cord function has reduced postoperative neurological morbidity in these patients. The anesthetist has an important role in facilitating these methods of monitoring.

This essay will discuss the great problems which will face the anaesthesiologist and the possible adequate management for such patients aiming to minimize the complications and the high death rate associated with such patients.