Journal of Diagnostics and Treatment of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology | DTJournal.org | ISSN 2522-1965

EDITORIAL

Penetrating Trauma and Facial Fractures: Topics that Cannot Be Ignored During Wartime, A New Section Editor

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ABSTRACT

The development of a peer-reviewed journals in the profile of oral and maxillofacial surgery is impossible without the leadership of professionals in each of the sections. One such section is the trauma section. In the conditions of a large-scale war on the European continent and numerous military conflicts of varying intensity in many parts of the globe, the experience of surgeons in the treatment of combat, explosive and gunshot injuries is one of the most relevant areas of head and neck surgery. Among the many types of injuries of the maxillofacial area, fractures of the mandible remain one of the most numerous conditions. In this paper, we will present to your attention a new section and its founding editor, namely Professor Coulthard.

KEY WORDS

Penetrating trauma, soft tissues injury, gunshot, mandible fracture, facial bones fractures.

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A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

—John C. Maxwell

American author, speaker, and pastor

Multiple papers dedicated to adult and pediatric trauma were published in 2022 and 2023.[1–10] With the beginning of a large-scale war on European continent in 2022, the number of articles devoted to penetrating wounds of the head and neck began to increase.[4] Some authors publish wounds received in the war,[4] for other authors the subject of penetrating injuries[10] became even more relevant in hostilities on different continents and epidemic of gunshot violence[11]. A lot of unsolved problems remains in such topics as gunshot and non-gunshot maxilla and mandible fractures (Fig 1), in the management of the wounds of the soft tissues. According to Breeze and colleagues (2011) and Rehman and colleagues (2023), the mandible is the most likely structure of the maxillofacial complex to be injured during combat-related trauma.[12,13] Moreover, new challenges have arisen in trauma related to the use of new types of weapons, in particular drone attacks.[14]

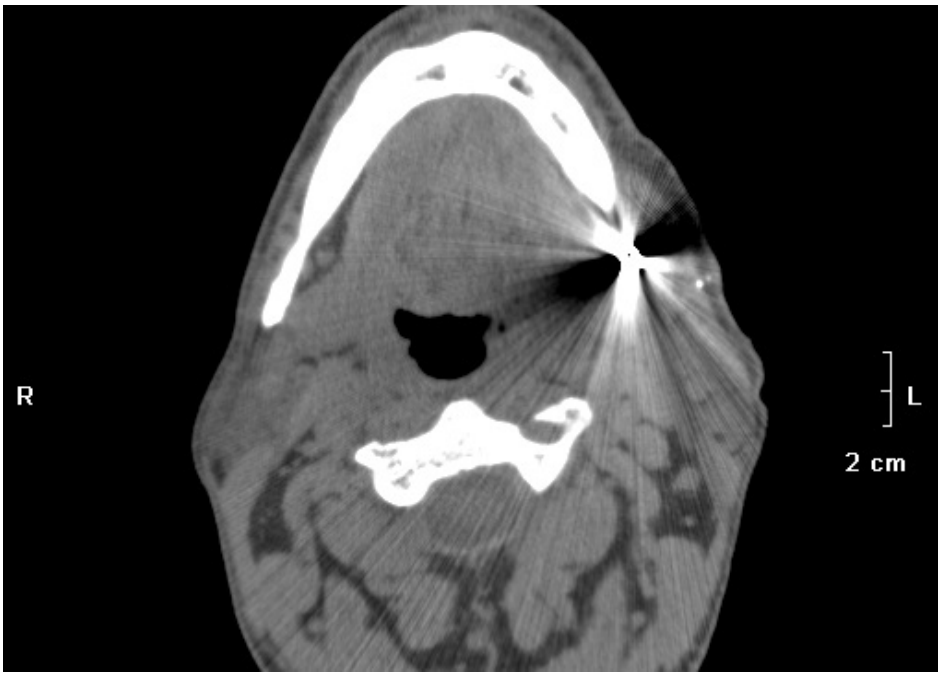

FIGURE 1. Axial multi-slice computed tomography scan shows condition of tissues in the region of compound fracture of the mandible. A 51-year-old male with a gunshot marginal mandibular fracture on the left and foreign body located in the fracture area. R, right; L, left. Printed with permission and copyrights retained by I.I.F.

The prestigious peer-reviewed journals in our specialty typically have sections devoted to trauma. For example, "Craniomaxillofacial Trauma" in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* and "Trauma" section in the *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*. Some publications are so focused on the publication of articles devoted to head and neck injuries that this positioning is even included in their title, such as the journal *Craniomaxillofacial Trauma & Reconstruction*.

That is why we dared to create a profile section on oral and maxillofacial trauma and invite to the position of editor of the section a person who would be able to successfully manage manuscripts on this topic. There could be no better professional for this position than Professor Coulthard (Fig 2). Paul Coulthard, BDS MDS PhD MFGDP(UK) FDSRCS(Eng) FDSRCS(OS) FDSRCPS(Glas) FFDTRCS(Ed)

FDSRCS(Ed) FCGDent is a Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in London, United Kingdom.

Other positions and affiliation of Professor Coulthard are:

- Honorary Consultant in Oral Surgery with Barts Health NHS Trust, London, England.
- Honorary Dental Consultant Advisor to the Office of the Chief Dental Officer, NHS England and NHS Improvement 2020-2024.
- Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Queen Mary University of London.

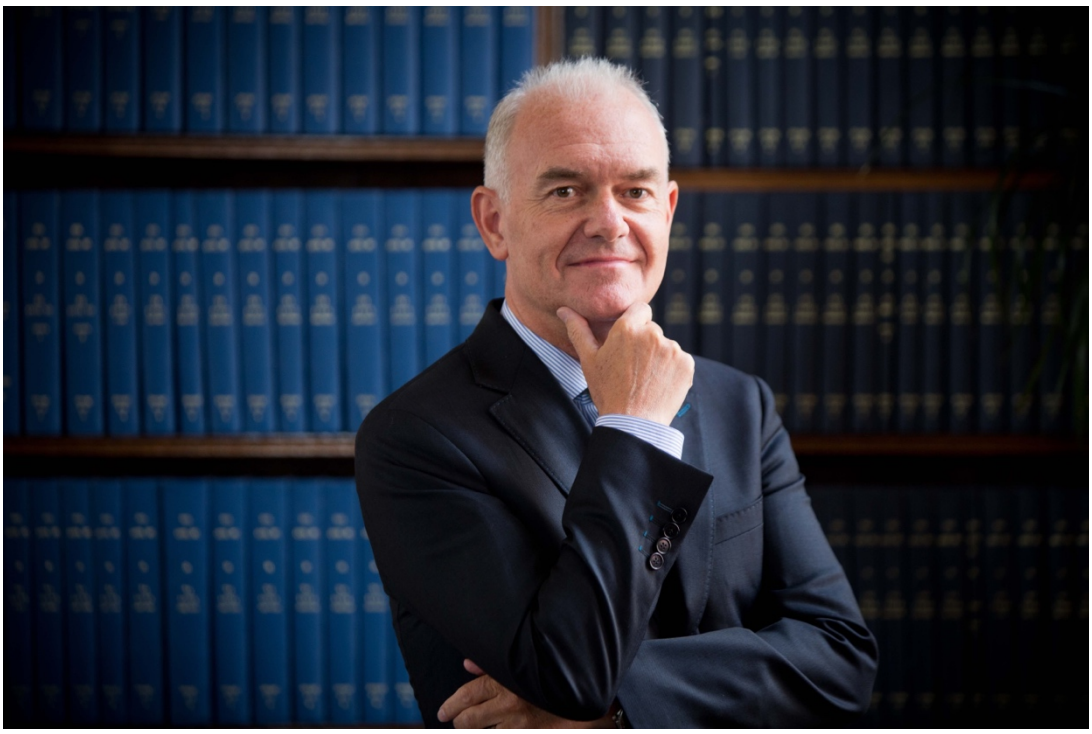

FIGURE 2. Professor Paul Coulthard, United Kingdom.

It is difficult to find another professional with such extensive editorial experience as the Professor Coulthard. He has been an Editor with the *Cochrane Collaboration Oral Health Group* since 2002, Editor-in-Chief of the *Oral Surgery* (a journal of the British Association of Oral Surgeons) in 2013-2018 and was a founding Editorial Board Member of the *International Journal of Surgery* in 2002-2018.

During the seven-year period of our *Journal*'s existence, we published a certain number of articles devoted to various types of traumatic injuries, both soft tissues and bone structures.[15–18] So, we are extremely delighted and honored to continue to develop this trauma research direction under the leadership of Professor Coulthard and invite authors to cooperate.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the DT Journal as Founding Section Editor!

—Professor Paul Coulthard

London, United Kingdom

Personal email communication as of September 8, 2023

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