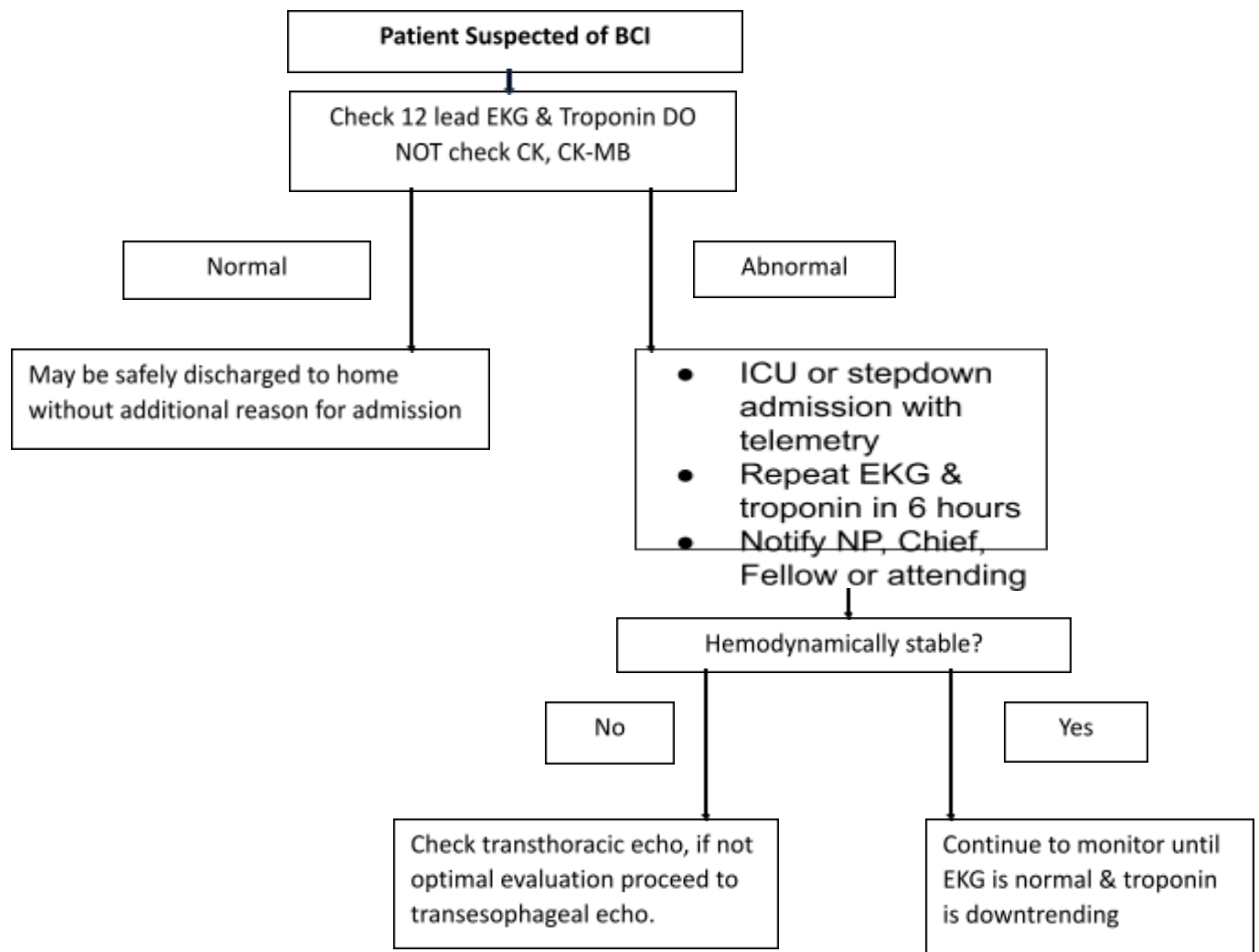




Blunt Cardiac Injury (BCI) Guideline

Patients at high risk for BCI:

- Blunt chest trauma AND at least one of the following:
 - Complaints of chest pain (not related to rib fractures)
 - Hemodynamically unstable patients unresponsive to resuscitation
 - Arrhythmia with than sinus tachycardia
- Patients NOT requiring screening:
 - Sternal fractures *without the above*



Special Considerations in BCI

1. Underlying cardiac disease

Patients with known underlying coronary artery disease and BCI, use of CT or MRI coronary angiography may be able to distinguish between structural and acute myocardial infarction

2. Use of Swan Ganz Catheters

In setting of unclear etiology of post trauma hypotension, use of pulmonary artery catheters may provide useful information and is considered safe in BCI

3. Operative Intervention

Elderly patients with BCI are safe to proceed with surgery with appropriate monitoring.

Patients with new arrhythmia are safe to proceed to the operative suite.

References

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