



Approach to Penetrating Neck Trauma

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Penetrating Neck Trauma → Violates Platysma? → Local Wound Care

no

yes

Hard Vascular Signs?

Severe/pulsatile active bleed
Expanding hematoma
Bruit/thrill
Hemodynamic shock
Absent pulses/stroke

yes

to OR

no

CTA Neck

Obvious injury on CTA →
-OR for zone 2
-OR vs IR for zone 1/3

Concerning trajectory →
admit for bronchoscopy,
upper GI scope, monitoring

No obvious injury and non-
concerning trajectory →
observation vs. home

Zone I and III injuries:

Very difficult to access surgically and may require CTA for planning and IR rather than OR management

Zones of Neck

