

Anesthetic management and early outcomes in patients with earthquake-induced crush and compartment syndrome: A single-center retrospective analysis

İb Tuğba Nur Taygurt,¹ İb Gökhan Erdem,² İb Süleyman Taygurt,¹ İb Muhammed Nezh Koç³

¹Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Ministry of Health, Kırşehir Training and Research Hospital, Kırşehir-Türkiye

²Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Health Sciences University, Ankara Bilkent City Hospital, Ankara-Türkiye

³Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Yunak State Hospital, Ministry of Health, Konya-Türkiye

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: This retrospective study aimed to evaluate anesthesia management, intraoperative support strategies, and 60-day clinical outcomes in patients requiring surgical intervention, including fasciotomy and/or amputation, due to crush and compartment syndrome following the February 6, 2023, Kahramanmaraş earthquakes. The study also sought to identify predictors of mortality and contribute to the field of disaster medicine.

METHODS: This single-center study reviewed the data of 64 patients who underwent emergency surgery between February 6 and April 6, 2023. Retrospectively collected and analyzed data included patient demographics, ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists) physical status classification, anesthesia techniques used, intraoperative support provided, and 60-day follow-up clinical outcomes, including mortality, renal function, and muscle necrosis markers.

RESULTS: Most patients (93.8%) underwent surgery under general anesthesia due to systemic instability. This finding highlights the critical role of the systemic effects of traumatic injuries and crush syndrome in the choice of anesthesia. The 60-day mortality rate was 11.1%. Significant decreases in muscle necrosis markers, such as CK, AST, and ALT, were observed after fasciotomy. This finding suggests that even delayed fasciotomy may be effective in reducing the systemic toxic load. A key finding was that the preoperative albumin/lactate ratio was identified as a strong and independent predictor of mortality. This ratio may serve as a practical biomarker for patient risk stratification and prognosis.

CONCLUSION: In cases of crush and compartment syndrome following an earthquake, general anesthesia was widely preferred over regional techniques because of patients' severe systemic instability. The data show that surgical interventions, such as fasciotomy, can successfully reduce the systemic toxic load and improve patient outcomes. Furthermore, a simple biomarker, such as the preoperative albumin/lactate ratio, could be a critical tool for predicting patient risk and mortality, especially in resource-limited settings following a disaster. This study provides important information for planning anesthesia and surgical management strategies in similar disaster situations.

Keywords: Anesthesia; crush syndrome; earthquakes; fasciotomy; mortality.

INTRODUCTION

On February 6, 2023, two major earthquakes struck Türkiye, with epicenters in Pazarcık (Kahramanmaraş) (Mw 7.7) and El-

bistan (Kahramanmaraş) (Mw 7.6).^[1] These catastrophic events affected a wide geographic region encompassing 11 provinces, impacting approximately 14 million people and resulting in more than 50,000 deaths according to official reports.

Cite this article as: Taygurt TN, Erdem G, Taygurt S, Koc MN. Anesthetic management and early outcomes in patients with earthquake-induced crush and compartment syndrome: a single-center retrospective analysis. *Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg* 2026;32:694-701.

Address for correspondence: Muhammed Nezh Koç

Department of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Yunak State Hospital, Ministry of Health, Konya, Türkiye

E-mail: mnezhkoc@gmail.com

Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg 2026;32(6):694-701 DOI: 10.14744/tjtes.2025.88870

Submitted: 15.09.2025 Revised: 04.11.2025 Accepted: 05.11.2025 Published: 03.06.2026

OPEN ACCESS This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>).



The most frequently encountered injuries in the post-earthquake period were extremity trauma and crush syndrome.^[2] In cases when compartment syndrome develops, early fasciotomy is the gold standard of treatment. However, under disaster conditions, surgical intervention may be delayed. While some patients can be managed conservatively, others may require delayed fasciotomy or even amputation.^[3,4] Furthermore, metabolites released following crush injuries can lead to acute kidney injury, which may be life-threatening.^[5]

Our hospital, located approximately 595 km from the earthquake-affected region, did not experience shortages of anesthesia equipment or personnel for general anesthesia. On the first day following the disaster, most surgical patients received general anesthesia. This approach was influenced by the high incidence of crush syndrome, the unstable clinical condition of many patients, and the psychological stress associated with the disaster. Due to the overwhelming patient volume, it was not feasible to provide peripheral nerve blocks for all patients. Consequently, pain management during the initial phase relied on a multimodal approach combining systemic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and opioids.

Following the 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, many injured individuals were transferred to city hospitals outside the disaster zone to receive surgical and intensive care. This study aims to evaluate anesthesia management strategies, including the techniques used and intraoperative supportive interventions, in patients who underwent surgery after the earthquake. Additionally, we analyzed clinical outcomes within the first 60 days post-disaster, identified risk factors associated with mortality, and assessed changes in laboratory parameters, with the goal of presenting the experience gained during this disaster response.

The two devastating earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş on February 6, 2023, resulted in widespread casualties and a high incidence of extremity injuries among survivors. In the setting of disaster surgery, crush and compartment syndromes are common; however, data on the anesthetic management of earthquake victims are limited. Therefore, this study aimed to describe anesthesia practices, intraoperative support strategies, and 60-day outcomes in earthquake victims requiring surgery, as well as to evaluate biomarkers associated with mortality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Design

This single center, descriptive retrospective study evaluates anesthesia management, intraoperative support strategies, and early outcomes in adult patients with earthquake induced crush and/or compartment syndrome who required emergency surgery following the February 6, 2023 Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.

Study Population and Sample

The study population consisted of earthquake victims who underwent emergency trauma surgery in the Neurology–Orthopedics operating room between February 6, 2023 and April 6, 2023. A total of 64 patients who underwent emergency fasciotomy and/or amputation during this period were included in the analysis.

Data Collection

Data were obtained from anesthesia records and the hospital information management system. Collected variables included demographic characteristics (age, sex, and body weight), types of trauma, number of affected extremities, and clinical parameters such as duration of intubation and length of hospital stay. Perioperative data included American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status classification, type of anesthesia, surgical procedures performed, blood transfusion requirements, and use of intraoperative inotropic support. Laboratory parameters measured before and after anesthesia, such as urea, creatinine, albumin, aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), creatine kinase (CK), and lactate, were also recorded. Outcome data, including mortality, were collected comprehensively.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods and presented as line graphs, funnel plots, box plots, and tables. The Wilcoxon signed-rank test and paired t-test were used to compare laboratory values before and after fasciotomy. Correlation analysis and logistic regression were performed to assess the association between mortality and selected biomarkers.

Ethics

Ethical approval was obtained from the Scientific and Ethical Review Board for Medical Research (TABED) of Ankara Bilkent City Hospital (January 15, 2025; TABED 1-25-903). The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki.

RESULTS

Demographic and Baseline Clinical Characteristics

A total of 64 patients (n=64) were included in the study. The mean age was 31.76 ± 14.31 years, with a median of 28 years (range: 6–75). Females comprised 54.7% (n=35) of the cohort, while males accounted for 45.3% (n=29).

Regarding ASA physical status, 38.1% (n=24) of patients were classified as ASA IIE, 44.4% (n=28) as ASA IIIIE, 14.3% (n=9) as ASA IVE, and 3.2% (n=2) as ASA VE (percentages calculated based on 63 patients with available ASA data). The most frequently performed procedure was fasciotomy (64.1%, n=41), followed by amputation (31.3%, n=20) and debridement (6.3%, n=4). General anesthesia (GA) was administered in 93.8% (n=60) of cases. At admission, 82.8% (n=53) of patients were breathing spontaneously, 7.8% (n=5) required oxygen support, and 9.4% (n=6) were intubated.

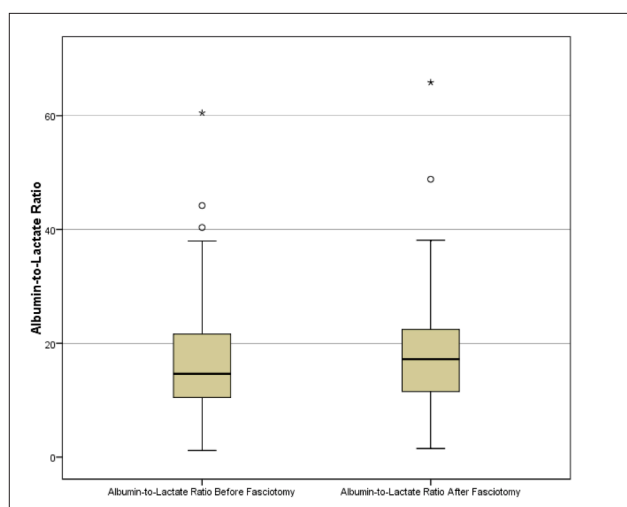


Figure 1. Boxplot of the albumin-to-lactate ratio before and after fasciotomy.

Perioperative Management and Clinical Outcomes

Sodium chloride solution (0.9% NaCl) was used intraoperatively in 93.8% of cases. Among patients requiring inotropic support, noradrenaline was the most commonly used agent (15.6%, n=10). Postoperative analgesia most frequently included tramadol (48.4%) and paracetamol (28.1%).

The mean operative time was 107.58 ± 48.28 minutes. The mean intensive care unit (ICU) stay was 22.85 ± 26.80 days, and the mean total hospital stay was 69.25 ± 55.27 days. Hemodialysis was required in 45.9% (n=28) of patients, while continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) was used in 3.3% (n=2). The overall mortality rate was 11.1% (n=7).

Effect of Fasciotomy on Laboratory Parameters

Following fasciotomy, significant decreases were observed in CK, AST, ALT, and lactate levels (all $p \leq 0.009$). Hemoglobin and albumin levels also decreased significantly ($p=0.010$ and $p=0.001$, respectively).

Biomarkers Predicting Mortality

Correlation analysis showed that pre-fasciotomy base excess was inversely correlated with mortality ($r=-0.413$, $p=0.001$). The neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) demonstrated a positive correlation with mortality both before and after fasciotomy ($r=0.289$, $p=0.012$; $r=0.221$, $p=0.043$, respectively). Platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) was negatively correlated with mortality in both the pre- and post-fasciotomy periods ($r=-0.246$, $p=0.028$; $r=-0.259$, $p=0.022$). The albumin-to-lactate ratio (ALR) showed a negative correlation with mortality both preoperatively and postoperatively (Spearman's $\rho=-0.450$, $p<0.001$; $\rho=-0.330$, $p=0.009$).

Multivariable logistic regression analysis, including preoperative platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR), NLR, ALR, and C-reactive protein-to-lactate ratio (CRP-to-lactate ratio), identified preoperative ALR as an independent predictor

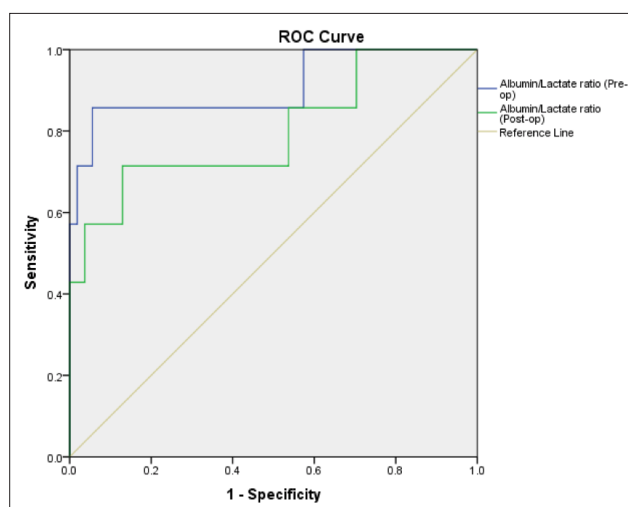


Figure 2. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve of the albumin-to-lactate ratio before and after fasciotomy.

of mortality (B=-0.364; Wald=8.579; $p=0.003$; odds ratio [OR]=0.695).

Graphical analyses further supported the prognostic value of ALR. The box plot illustrating ALR distribution before and after fasciotomy (Fig. 1) demonstrated a notable change in postoperative values. Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) analysis showed that both preoperative and postoperative ALR had strong predictive performance for mortality (Fig. 2). The area under the curve (AUC) for preoperative ALR was 0.907, indicating that it predicted mortality with 85.7% sensitivity and 85.2% specificity. The postoperative AUC for ALR was 0.799 (Table 7). These findings support the use of ALR as an early, noninvasive, and practical biomarker for predicting mortality.

DISCUSSION

Our cohort was characterized by a young median age (28 years), a high burden of systemic injury (61.9% classified as ASA III or higher; 39 of 63 patients with available ASA data), crush syndrome secondary to prolonged entrapment, and a high rate of acute kidney injury (dialysis requirement: 45.9%). Key findings included the predominant use of GA (93.8%), a high rate of fasciotomy (64.1%), and an in-hospital mortality rate of 11.1%.^[1,6] The most notable and original finding of this study is that preoperative ALR independently predicted mortality (OR: 0.695; $p=0.003$), indicating its potential as a clinically useful tool for early risk stratification.^[6] Graphical analyses further supported the prognostic value of ALR. The postoperative increase in ALR observed in Figure 1 is consistent with clinical improvement and a reduction in metabolic burden. Additionally, ROC analysis (Fig. 2) and the corresponding area under the curve values (Table 7) demonstrated that preoperative ALR predicts mortality with high accuracy. From a clinical perspective, mortality risk was significantly higher in patients with ALR values below the cutoff of 9.05.

Table 1. Demographic and baseline clinical characteristics of the patients

| Age (years) | |
|--|------------|
| Median (interquartile range) | 28 (23-41) |
| n (%) | |
| Sex | |
| Male | 29 (45.3%) |
| Female | 35 (54.7%) |
| ASA Score | |
| ASA IIE | 24 (38.1%) |
| ASA IIIIE | 28 (44.4%) |
| ASA IVE | 9 (14.3%) |
| ASA VE | 2 (3.2%) |
| Type of surgery | |
| Fasciotomy | 41 (64.1%) |
| Amputation | 20 (31.3%) |
| Debridement | 4 (6.3%) |
| Other | 2 (3.1%) |
| Type of anesthesia | |
| General anesthesia | 60 (93.8%) |
| Spinal anesthesia | 3 (4.7%) |
| Epidural anesthesia | 1 (1.6%) |
| Respiratory status on admission | |
| Spontaneous breathing | 53 (82.8%) |
| Oxygen support | 5 (7.8%) |
| Intubated | 6 (9.4%) |

ASA classification was unavailable for one patient; percentages are calculated based on 63 patients with available data.

These findings suggest that ALR may be integrated into disaster surgery settings for early triage and prioritization of intensive care, alongside existing scoring systems.

The high rate of general anesthesia in our cohort is consistent with reports from other centers following the same disaster. Kılınçarslan et al.^[1] reported a GA rate of 93.9% in 375 cases, while Erkilic et al.^[6] reported its use in 577 of 650 procedures. Although regional anesthesia (RA) is theoretically recommended in mass casualty settings due to its potential for resource conservation and reduced opioid requirements,^[7] the pathophysiological features of severe crush injury, such as hemodynamic instability, metabolic acidosis, and possible coagulopathy, often limit its applicability. In particular, neuraxial techniques may carry a risk of collapse due to sympathectomy, while altered consciousness and psychological trauma can further impair patient cooperation.^[8-11] Nevertheless, when feasible, RA can provide effective anesthesia and analgesia, reduce opioid-related adverse effects, and potentially decrease intensive care utilization.^[10,12-14]

Most fasciotomies in our cohort were performed “late” rela-

tive to the traditionally recommended 6–12-hour window.^[15-19] Therefore, indications for fasciotomy should be individualized, taking into account factors such as sustained pressure >30 mmHg for more than 8 hours, as well as overall patient condition.^[16,20,21] The significant postoperative reductions in CK, AST, ALT, and lactate suggest effective source control and attenuation of systemic toxicity. These findings support the notion that even delayed fasciotomy may be beneficial in selected patients with adequately resuscitated and viable limbs. The concurrent increase in CRP reflects a subsequent systemic inflammatory response, underscoring the need for

Table 2. Perioperative management and clinical outcomes

| Continuous variables | Mean±SD/Median (interquartile range) |
|--|---|
| Duration of surgery (min) | 107.58±48.28/90 (75-128) |
| Duration of intubation (days) | 3.80±11.69/0 (0-0) |
| ICU length of stay (days) | 22.85±26.80/10 (4-36) |
| Hospital length of stay (days) | 69.25±55.27/59 (32-102) |
| Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) | 13.95±2.63/15 (15-15) |
| Categorical variables, n (%) | |
| Intraoperative fluid management | |
| 0.9% NaCl | 60 (93.8%) |
| Balanced crystalloid solution | 6 (9.4%) |
| Colloid (Voluven) | 4 (6.3%) |
| Other (buffered, dextrose, polydex) | 16 (25.0%) |
| Inotropic support | |
| Noradrenaline | 10 (15.6%) |
| Dopamine | 2 (3.1%) |
| Adrenaline | 1 (1.6%) |
| Blood product usage | |
| Red blood cell suspension | 18 (28.1%) |
| Fresh frozen plasma | 8 (12.5%) |
| Platelet suspension | 2 (3.1%) |
| Fibrinogen | 1 (1.6%) |
| Dialysis requirement | |
| Hemodialysis | 28 (45.9%) |
| CRRT | 2 (3.3%) |
| Mortality | |
| Yes | 7 (11.1%) |
| No | 56 (88.9%) |

SD: Standard deviation; ICU: Intensive care unit; CRRT: Continuous renal replacement therapy. Some patients received more than one type of fluid or analgesic; therefore, percentages may exceed 100%. 60-day outcome data were unavailable for one patient; percentages are calculated based on 63 patients with available data. Dialysis status data were unavailable for three patients; percentages are calculated based on 61 patients with available data.

Table 3. Comparison of selected laboratory parameters before and after fasciotomy

| | Before fasciotomy (Mean±SD) | Before Fasciotomy Median (Min–Max) | After fasciotomy (Mean±SD) | After fasciotomy Median (Min–Max) | p-value |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Lactate (mmol/L) | 2.36±2.42 | 1.81 (0.50-14.36) | 1.82±1.70 | 1.32 (0.41-11.51) | 0.009* |
| Albumin (g/L) | 24.48±7.29 | 24.00 (8.03-49.00) | 22.79±6.08 | 21.00 (11.00-49.00) | 0.001* |
| Uric acid (mg/dL) | 5.12±3.12 | 4.75 (0.90-14.10) | 4.58±2.82 | 4.05 (0.90-11.40) | 0.001* |
| GFR (mL/min/1.73 m ²) | 88.78±58.67 | 102.50 (0.00-206.00) | 94.02±62.44 | 106.00 (0.00-243.00) | 0.110* |
| AST (U/L) | 852.36±1352.53 | 274.00 (22.00-6345.00) | 741.74±1313.86 | 225.00 (19.00-7626.00) | <0.001* |
| ALT (U/L) | 355.05±627.52 | 136.00 (23.00-3412.00) | 346.67±735.12 | 129.00 (23.00-5036.00) | 0.001* |
| Hemoglobin (g/dL) | 9.42±1.80 | 9.10 (5.70-14.60) | 8.85±1.72 | 8.50 (5.40-14.70) | 0.010† |
| CRP (mg/L) | 123.30±77.15 | 108.00 (0.49-344.40) | 133.72±80.67 | 116.20 (4.00-346.50) | 0.027* |
| Creatine kinase (U/L) | 30605.20±53098.47 | 8478.00 (125.00-257067.00) | 24271.62±41329.81 | 6093.00 (64.00-193733.00) | <0.001* |
| Potassium (mmol/L) | 4.38±1.15 | 4.10 (2.50-7.80) | 4.27±1.05 | 4.10 (2.60-7.20) | 0.120† |
| Chloride (mmol/L) | 105.23±5.79 | 105.00 (89.00-117.00) | 105.89±5.12 | 106.00 (95.00-118.00) | 0.238† |
| Base excess (BE) (mmol/L) | -2.88±6.66 | -2.10 (-22.20-13.40) | -1.90±5.53 | -2.15 (-19.30-14.20) | 0.457* |
| Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) | 11.81±8.03 | 9.49 (1.27-40.96) | 12.33±7.63 | 10.72 (2.47-42.37) | 0.395* |
| Platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) | 253.61±178.42 | 194.08 (41.18-724.32) | 272.25±201.89 | 217.27 (41.82-1012.50) | 0.391* |
| Albumin-to-lactate ratio | 17.7±11.03 | 14.63 (1.18-60.49) | 18.39±11.06 | 17.21 (1.52-65.85) | 0.680* |

*SD: Standard deviation; Min: Minimum; Max: Maximum; GFR: Glomerular filtration rate; AST: Aspartate aminotransferase; ALT: Alanine aminotransferase; CRP: C-reactive protein; PLT: Platelet; LYM: Lymphocyte. Wilcoxon signed-rank test; †Paired t-test.

Table 4. Correlation analysis between mortality and biomarker ratios

| | Correlation coefficient (r/ρ) | p-value |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|
| Pre-fasciotomy base excess (BE) (mmol/L) | -0.413* | 0.001 |
| Post-fasciotomy base excess (mmol/L) | -0.182* | 0.085 |
| Pre-fasciotomy neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) | 0.289* | 0.012 |
| Post-fasciotomy neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) | 0.221* | 0.043 |
| Pre-fasciotomy platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) | -0.246* | 0.028 |
| Post-fasciotomy platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR) | -0.259* | 0.022 |
| Pre-fasciotomy albumin-to-lactate ratio (ALR) | -0.450† | <0.001 |
| Post-fasciotomy albumin-to-lactate ratio (ALR) | -0.330† | 0.009 |

*PLT: Platelet; LYM: Lymphocyte. Point-biserial correlation; †Spearman correlation.

Table 5. Logistic regression analysis results for mortality

| Variable | B | SE | Wald | p value | OR (95% CI) |
|---|--------|-------|-------|---------|---------------------|
| Preoperative albumin-to-lactate ratio (ALR) | -0.364 | 0.124 | 8.579 | 0.003 | 0.695 (0.545-0.886) |

B: Regression coefficient; SE: Standard error; OR: Odds ratio; CI: Confidence interval.

aggressive ICU management to prevent complications such as late sepsis and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).^[22]

The prognostic value of the ALR observed in this study is consistent with findings reported in sepsis, septic shock,

polytrauma, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other critical illnesses.^[23-26] However, some studies have reported higher lactate-to-albumin ratios in non-survivors without demonstrating independent predictive value in multivariable analy-

Table 6. Key prognostic biomarkers for mortality

| Biomarker/Ratio (preoperative) | Correlation with mortality (ρ/r) | p-value | Logistic regression result (OR) |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------|---------------------------------|
| Albumin-to-lactate ratio (ALR) | $\rho=-0.450$ | <0.001 | 0.695 (p=0.003) |
| Base deficit | $r=-0.413$ | 0.001 | Not independently pre-dictive |
| Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) | $r=0.289$ | 0.012 | Not independently pre-dictive |
| Platelet-to-leukocyte ratio (PLR) | $r=-0.246$ | 0.028 | Not independently pre-dictive |

Table 7. Analysis of preoperative and postoperative albumin-to-lactate ratios

| Parameter | AUC | Std. Error | p-value | 95% CI (Lower–Upper) | Cut-off | Sensitivity (%) | Specificity (%) |
|--|-------|------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Albumin-to-lactate ratio (preoperative) | 0.907 | 0.076 | <0.001 | 0.758–1.000 | 9.05 | 85.7 | 85.2 |
| Albumin-to-lactate ratio (postoperative) | 0.799 | 0.106 | 0.011 | 0.591–1.000 | 13.4 | 71.4 | 72.2 |

ses, or without superiority over established scoring systems.^[27,28] Mechanistically, ALR reflects the interplay between perfusion and metabolic stress (lactate) and the patient's inflammatory and nutritional status (albumin),^[29,30] thereby serving as a marker of “physiologic exhaustion.” In the context of disaster medicine, ALR may offer a practical tool for early triage and resource allocation.

Previous earthquake series have documented a high incidence of crush injuries and compartment syndrome.^[16,31–34] Similarly, our cohort demonstrated a high burden of severe extremity trauma, with fasciotomy performed in 64.1% of patients and amputation in 31.3%. Fluid resuscitation predominantly involved isotonic saline. While early aggressive fluid therapy is critical for preventing renal injury, further studies are needed to clarify the impact of fluid type and volume on clinical outcomes.

This study has several limitations, including its retrospective, single-center design and relatively small sample size (n=64). Prospective, multicenter studies are needed to validate the prognostic utility of ALR in disaster settings. Further research should also address optimal decision-making in late-presenting compartment syndrome (fasciotomy versus amputation), potentially incorporating advanced imaging modalities and novel biomarkers. Additionally, long-term outcomes, including functional status, psychological impact, and quality of life, should be further investigated.

CONCLUSION

In this cohort of 64 surgically managed earthquake victims, GA predominated due to instability and limited patient coop-

eration. Significant postoperative reductions in CK, AST, ALT, and lactate levels indicate effective attenuation of systemic toxic burden, even in cases of delayed surgical intervention, whereas persistent inflammatory responses highlight the ongoing need for intensive care. Preoperative ALR independently predicted mortality, suggesting its potential as a practical tool for early triage in mass disaster settings.^[6,23–26,29,30] Future studies should prospectively validate the prognostic value of ALR, refine evidence-based management strategies for late-presenting compartment syndrome, and assess long-term outcomes.

Ethics Committee Approval: Ethical approval was obtained from the Scientific and Ethical Review Board for Medical Research (TABED) of Ankara Bilkent City Hospital (Date: 15.01.2025, Decision No: TABED I-25-903).

Acknowledgments: We thank the Departments of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, and Orthopedics and Traumatology at Ankara Bilkent City Hospital for their contributions.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

Informed Consent: Informed consent was not required due to the retrospective design of the study; this was approved by the Ethics Committee.

Authorship Contributions: Concept: T.N.T.; Design: T.N.T., G.E.; Supervision: T.N.T., M.N.K.; Resource: S.T.; Materials: T.N.T.; Data collection and/or processing: G.E., S.T.; Analysis and/or interpretation: M.N.K., G.E.; Literature review: G.E.; Writing: T.N.T.; Critical review: S.T., M.N.K.

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Financial Disclosure: The author declared that this study has received no financial support.

REFERENCES

- Kılınçarslan A, Özhan Caparlar C, Çakırca M, Özkan Sipahioğlu F, Atar F, Ölmez S, et al. Anesthetic approach to trauma patients in the city hospital after the 2023 Maraş earthquake. *Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg* 2024;30:167–73. [CrossRef]
- Greaves I, Porter K, Smith JE; Voluntary Aid Societies; Ambulance Service Association; British Association for Immediate Care; British Association for Emergency Medicine; et al. Consensus statement on the early management of crush injury and prevention of crush syndrome. *J R Army Med Corps* 2003;149:255–9. [CrossRef]
- Coccolini F, Improta M, Picetti E, Branca Vergano L, Catena F, de'Angelis N, et al. Timing of surgical intervention for compartment syndrome in different body region: systematic review of the literature. *World J Emerg Surg* 2020;15:60. [CrossRef]
- Héry JC, Maroteau G, Dujoux C, Riffault L, Hulet C. Ultrasound-guided fasciotomy for chronic exertional forearm compartment syndrome: a cadaveric feasibility study. *Hand Surg Rehabil* 2023;42:298–304. [CrossRef]
- Matsen FA 3rd, Winquist RA, Krugmire RB Jr. Diagnosis and management of compartmental syndromes. *J Bone Joint Surg Am* 1980;62:286–91. [CrossRef]
- Erkilic E, Kurtay M, Yılmaz G, Demirörs A, Baltacı EM, Sözsahibi D, et al. Retrospective evaluation of anesthesia in patients undergoing surgery after the February 6, 2023 Earthquake in Turkey. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep* 2025;19:e10. [CrossRef]
- Hughey S, Cole J, Drew B, Brust A, Stedjelarsen E. Regional anesthesia in resource-limited and disaster environments: a daring discourse. *Reg Anesth Pain Med* 2025;50:686–9. [CrossRef]
- Lodico DN, Darin Via RA. Mass Casualty and the Role of the Anesthesiologist. *Anesthesiol Clin* 2021;39:309–19. [CrossRef]
- Missair A, Gebhard R, Pierre E, Cooper L, Lubarsky D, Frohock J, et al. Surgery under extreme conditions in the aftermath of the 2010 Haiti earthquake: the importance of regional anesthesia. *Prehosp Disaster Med* 2010;25:487–93. [CrossRef]
- Waloejo CS, Sulistiawan SS, Semedi BP, Dzakiyah AZ, Stella MA, Ikhromi N, et al. The Anesthetic Techniques for Earthquake Victims in Indonesia. *Open Access Emerg Med* 2022;14:77–84. [CrossRef]
- Rice MJ, Gwertzman A, Finley T, Morey TE. Anesthetic practice in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. *Anesth Analg* 2010;111:1445–9. [CrossRef]
- Ariyo P, Trelles M, Helmand R, Amir Y, Hassani GH, Mftavyanka J, et al. Providing anesthesia care in resource-limited settings: a 6-year analysis of anesthesia services provided at Médecins Sans Frontières Facilities. *Anesthesiology* 2016;124:561–9. [CrossRef]
- Shah S, Dalal A, Smith RM, Joseph G, Rogers S, Dyer GS. Impact of portable ultrasound in trauma care after the Haitian earthquake of 2010. *Am J Emerg Med* 2010;28:970–1. [CrossRef]
- Lehavi A, Meroz Y, Maryanovsky M, Merin O, Blumberg N, Bar-On E, et al. Role of regional anaesthesia in disaster medicine: field hospital experience after the 2015 Nepal Earthquake. *Eur J Anaesthesiol* 2016;33:312–3. [CrossRef]
- Herron T, Haftel A, Torp KD, Cooper JS. Hyperbaric treatment of crush injury and compartment syndrome. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2018.
- Shimazu T, Yoshioka T, Nakata Y, Ishikawa K, Mizushima Y, Morimoto F, et al. Fluid resuscitation and systemic complications in crush syndrome: 14 Hanshin-Awaji earthquake patients. *J Trauma* 1997;42:641–6. [CrossRef]
- Finkelstein JA, Hunter GA, Hu RW. Lower limb compartment syndrome: course after delayed fasciotomy. *J Trauma* 1996;40:342–4. [CrossRef]
- Williams AB, Luchette FA, Papaconstantinou HT, Lim E, Hurst JM, Johannigman JA, et al. The effect of early versus late fasciotomy in the management of extremity trauma. *Surgery* 1997;122:861–6. [CrossRef]
- Bingol O, Karlidag T, Keskin OH, Kilic E, Sarikaya B, Ozdemir G. Preventing extremity amputations after earthquakes: a quantitative analysis of fasciotomy and extrication time. *Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg* 2023;49:2515–20. [CrossRef]
- Tahmasebi MN, Kiani K, Mazlouman SJ, Taheri A, Kamrani RS, Panjavi B, Harandi BA. Musculoskeletal injuries associated with earthquake. A report of injuries of Iran's December 26, 2003 Bam earthquake casualties managed in tertiary referral centers. *Injury* 2005;3:27–32.
- Gerdin M, Wladis A, von Schreeb J. Surgical management of closed crush injury-induced compartment syndrome after earthquakes in resource-scarce settings. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg* 2012;73:758–64. [CrossRef]
- Yalın M, Gölgeioğlu F. A Comparative analysis of fasciotomy results in children and adults affected by crush-induced acute kidney injury following the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes. *Medicina (Kaunas)* 2023;59:1593. [CrossRef]
- Lichtenauer M, Wernly B, Ohnewein B, Franz M, Kabisch B, Muessig J, et al. The lactate/albumin ratio: a valuable tool for risk stratification in septic patients admitted to ICU. *Int J Mol Sci* 2017;18:1893. [CrossRef]
- Arslan K, Sultan Sahin A. Lactate, lactate clearance, and lactate-to-albumin ratio in predicting mortality in patients with critical polytrauma: A retrospective observational study. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2024;103:e40704. [CrossRef]
- Wang R, He M, Qu F, Zhang J, Xu J. Lactate albumin ratio is associated with mortality in patients with moderate to severe traumatic brain injury. *Front Neurol* 2022;13:662385. [CrossRef]
- Suzuki Y, Aoki Y, Shimizu M, Nakajima M, Imai R, Okada Y, et al. Predictive accuracy of lactate albumin ratio for mortality in intensive care units: a nationwide cohort study. *BMJ Open* 2024;14:e088926. [CrossRef]
- Sipahioğlu H, Onuk S. Lactate dehydrogenase/albumin ratio as a prognostic factor in severe acute respiratory distress syndrome cases associated with COVID-19. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2022;101:e30759. [CrossRef]
- Dudoignon E, Quennesson T, De Tymowski C, Moreno N, Coutrot M, Chausard M, et al. Usefulness of lactate albumin ratio at admission to predict 28-day mortality in critically ill severely burned patients: A retrospective cohort study. *Burns* 2022;48:1836–44. [CrossRef]
- Hua Y, Ding N, Jing H, Xie Y, Wu H, Wu Y, et al. Association between the lactate-to-albumin ratio (LAR) index and risk of acute kidney injury in critically ill patients with sepsis: analysis of the MIMIC-IV database. *Front Physiol* 2025;16:1469866. [CrossRef]
- Mourya V, Gupta R, Yadav A, Yadav R. Lactate/Albumin ratio as prognostic tool for risk stratification in septic patients admitted to ICU. *Critical Care Innovations* 2023;6:11–22.
- Bulut M, Turanoğlu G, Armağan E, Akköse S, Ozgüç H, Tokyay R. The analysis of traumatized patients who were admitted to the Uludag University Medical School Hospital after the Marmara earthquake. *Ulus Travma Derg* 2001;7:262–6. [Article in Turkish]
- Oda J, Tanaka H, Yoshioka T, Iwai A, Yamamura H, Ishikawa K, et al. Analysis of 372 patients with Crush syndrome caused by the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake. *J Trauma* 1997;42:470–5. [CrossRef]
- Oda Y, Shindoh M, Yukioka H, Nishi S, Fujimori M, Asada A. Crush syndrome sustained in the 1995 Kobe, Japan, earthquake; treatment and outcome. *Ann Emerg Med* 1997;30:507–12. [CrossRef]
- Quan Y, Pan X, Deng S, Lu S, Tao S, Zhou J, et al. Features of crush injury in Wenchuan earthquake and the corresponding operational methods. *Zhongguo Xue Fu Chong Jian Wai Ke Za Zhi* 2009;23:549–51. [Article in Chinese]

ORİJİNAL ÇALIŞMA - ÖZ

Deprem kaynaklı crush/kompartman sendromu hastalarında anestezi yönetimi ve erken dönem sonuçlar: Tek merkezli retrospektif analiz

AMAÇ: Bu retrospektif çalışma, 6 Şubat 2023 Kahramanmaraş depremleri sonrası crush ve kompartman sendromu nedeniyle cerrahi müdahale (fasyotomi ve/veya amputasyon) gerektiren hastalarda anestezi yönetimini, intraoperatif destek stratejilerini ve 60 günlük klinik sonuçları değerlendirmeyi amaçlamıştır. Çalışma, mortaliteyi öngören belirteçleri belirleyerek afet tıbbi alanına katkı sağlamayı hedeflemektedir.

GEREÇ VE YÖNTEM: Tek merkezli olarak yürütülen bu çalışma kapsamında, 6 Şubat–6 Nisan 2023 tarihleri arasında acil cerrahi uygulanan 64 hastanın verileri incelenmiştir. Demografik bilgiler, hastaların ASA (Amerikan Anesteziyoloji Derneği) fiziksel durum sınıflandırması, uygulanan anestezi teknikleri, operasyon sırasında verilen destek tedavileri ve 60 günlük takip süresince elde edilen klinik sonuçlar (mortalite, böbrek fonksiyonları, kas nekrozu belirteçleri) retrospektif olarak toplanmış ve analiz edilmiştir.

BULGULAR: Hastaların büyük çoğunluğu (%93.8) sistemik instabilite nedeniyle genel anestezi altında ameliyat edilmiştir. Bu durum, travmatik yaralanmaların ve crush sendromunun sistemik etkilerinin anestezi seçimindeki belirleyici rolünü göstermektedir. 60 günlük takip sürecinde mortalite oranı %11.1 olarak belirlenmiştir. Fasyotomi sonrası kas nekrozu belirteçleri olan CK, AST ve ALT seviyelerinde anlamlı düşüşler gözlenmiştir. Bu bulgu, geç uygulanan fasyotominin dahi sistemik toksik yükü azaltmada etkili olabileceğini ortaya koymaktadır. En önemli bulgulardan biri, preoperatif albümin/laktat oranının mortalite için güçlü ve bağımsız bir öngörücü olarak saptanmasıdır. Bu oran, hastaların risk sınıflandırması ve prognoz tahmini için pratik bir biyobelirteç olarak öne çıkmaktadır.

SONUÇ: Deprem sonrası crush ve kompartman sendromu gibi durumlarda hastaların şiddetli sistemik instabilitesi nedeniyle genel anestezi, bölgesel tekniklere kıyasla daha yaygın olarak tercih edilmiştir. Elde edilen veriler, fasyotomi gibi cerrahi müdahalelerin sistemik toksik yükü başarılı bir şekilde düşürdüğünü ve hasta sonuçlarını iyileştirebileceğini göstermektedir. Ayrıca, preoperatif albümin/laktat oranı gibi basit bir biyobelirtecin, özellikle kısıtlı kaynakların olduğu afet bölgelerinde, hasta riskini ve mortaliteyi öngörmeye kritik bir araç olabileceği sonucuna varılmıştır. Bu çalışma, benzer afet durumlarında anestezi ve cerrahi yönetim stratejilerinin planlanması için önemli bilgiler sunmaktadır.

Anahtar sözcükler: Anestezi; deprem; crush sendromu; fasyotomi; mortalite.

Ulus Travma Acil Cerrahi Derg 2026;32(6):694-701 DOI: 10.14744/tjtes.2025.88870