

PENETRATING CHEST INJURIES

UNSTABLE

ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION

CHEST TUBE PLACEMENT
(UNI or BILATERAL)

I.V. FLUIDS

REASSESSMENT

WOUND
IN THE BOX

STABLE?

STABLE

CHEST X-RAY

TRANSMEDIASTINAL
TRAJECTORY

CHEST CT WITH
CONTRAST

MEDIASTINUM

Inferior

Superior

R/O CARDIAC INJURY

ECHO / PERICARDIAL
WINDOW

CHEST TUBE
OUTPUT

> 1200cc
or
> 200cc/hr

THORACOTOMY
(open the side of the
hemothorax first)

CONSIDER:
BRONCHOSCOPY
ESOPHAGOSCOPY/
ESOPHOGRAM
ANGIOGRAPHY
CHEST CT AORTIC
PROTOCOL

Inferior

R/O ESOPHAGEAL
INJURY

ESOPHAGOSCOPY/
ESOPHOGRAM

SIGNS
OF
PERICARDIAL TAMPONADE

TO OPERATING ROOM
FOR
PERICARDIAL WINDOW /
(L) THORACOTOMY

ECHO
AND/OR
PERICARDIAL
WINDOW

Yes

No

EMERGENCY
THORACOTOMY
(Start on the (L) side)