Traumatic Cardiac Arrest

**Treatment Algorithm**

1. **Trauma patient**
   - Peri-arrest
   - Cardiac arrest

2. **Peri-arrest**
   - Penetrating trauma to chest/epigastrium?
     - yes: Consider immediate thoracotomy
     - no: Continue CPR
   - Likely medical cause?
     - no: Follow ALS algorithm
     - yes: Treat reversible causes (Use 4Hs & 4Ts approach)

3. **Treat reversible causes**
   - Hypovolaemia: Control external bleeding, Splint pelvis/fractures, IV/IO fluid/blood
   - Hypoxia: Basic/advanced airway management, Give oxygen
   - Tension pneumothorax: Decompress chest (thoracostomy)
   - Tamponade – cardiac: Consider thoracotomy

4. **Spontaneous circulation?**
   - yes: Continue CPR
   - no: Consider termination of resuscitation

Prehospital:
- Immediate transfer to appropriate hospital

In hospital:
- Immediate transfer to operating theatre/interventional radiology if indicated