



**PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SURGERY  
SUBMISSION FORM**

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**Turning Point: A Prospective Randomized Study of the  
Efficacy of an Inpatient Violence Intervention Program**

**Objective:** The purpose of this study was to determine the efficacy of Turning Point, an inpatient violence intervention program, in changing attitudes toward violence among penetrating trauma victims. **Methods:** This was a prospective randomized study conducted at an urban Level 1 trauma center from January - June 2012. Patients  $\geq 18$ y who sustained a gunshot or stab wound were randomized to standard of care (SOC; social work only), or Turning Point (TP; social work plus TP activities). TP activities involved watching their trauma bay video and a movie about violence, visiting with a survivor of violence, and meeting with a representative from a social service organization that would be providing case management upon discharge. The Attitudes Toward Guns and Violence Questionnaire (AGVQ) was administered before and after the inpatient interventions to compare change within and between groups. In addition to a total score indicating overall proclivity toward violence, the AGVQ yielded four subscale scores (aggressive response to shame, comfort with aggression, excitement, and power/safety). A  $p < 0.05$  was significant. **Results:** A total of 40 / 159 subjects were randomized to the study (21 SOC, 19 TP). The primary reason for exclusion was too short length of stay. The SOC and TP groups were similar with respect to demographics and injuries except in age (median SOC 31y, TP 22y;  $p=0.004$ ). No Pre-Post differences in total or subscale scores were observed within the SOC group. In contrast, a significant Pre-Post decrease in total, shame, and aggression scores were observed within the TP group ( $p=0.02$ , 0.01, and 0.03, respectively). There were trends toward significant differences between the groups in total and aggression change scores ( $p=0.11$  and 0.07, respectively). **Conclusion:** TP appears to be effective in changing attitudes toward violence among penetrating trauma victims. Long term follow-up and a larger sample size will determine if this program is truly a turning point in patients' attitudes.