

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) Recommends:

The ASA recognizes that forced-air warming is an effective patient management tool and recommends that forced-air warming systems be used for treating hypothermia.

American Society of Anesthesiologists. Practice Guidelines for Postanesthetic Care. A Report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Postanesthetic Care. *Anesthesiology*. 2002; 96: p. 742-752.

Temperature Conversion Chart

Temperature Equivalents

All figures in degrees (°)

Temperature Conversion Formulas

To convert Centigrade to Fahrenheit:
 $(1.8 \times ^\circ\text{C}) + 32 = ^\circ\text{F}$

To convert Fahrenheit to Centigrade:
 $(^\circ\text{F} - 32) \div 1.8 = ^\circ\text{C}$

	Centigrade	Fahrenheit	Centigrade	Fahrenheit
SEVERE HYPOTHERMIA	31.0	87.8	36.2	97.2
	31.2	88.2	36.4	97.5
	31.4	88.5	36.6	97.9
	31.6	88.9	36.8	98.2
	31.8	89.2	37.0	98.6
MODERATE HYPOTHERMIA	32.0	89.6	37.2	99.0
	32.2	90.0	37.4	99.3
	32.4	90.3	37.6	99.7
	32.6	90.7	37.8	100.0
	32.8	91.0	38.0	100.4
	33.0	91.4	38.2	100.8
	33.2	91.8	38.4	101.1
	33.4	92.1	38.6	101.5
	33.6	92.5	38.8	101.8
	33.8	92.8	39.0	102.2
MILD HYPOTHERMIA	34.0	93.2	39.2	102.6
	34.2	93.6	39.4	102.9
	34.4	93.9	39.6	103.3
	34.6	94.3	39.8	103.6
	34.8	94.6	40.0	104.0
	35.0	95.0	40.2	104.4
	35.2	95.4	40.4	104.7
	35.4	95.7	40.6	105.1
35.6	96.1	40.8	105.4	
35.8	96.8	41.0	105.8	
	36.0	96.4		





Fast Facts: Hypothermia in the Trauma Setting

- In the study “Hypothermia in Trauma Victims,” Tsuei states that operative procedures should only be completed after the trauma patient has been adequately resuscitated and hypothermia has been corrected.¹
- Treatment of hypothermia in the trauma patient should begin with prevention of further heat loss.²
- Half to two-thirds of trauma patients become hypothermic during assessment and resuscitation.³
- Hypothermia, acidosis and coagulopathy have been called the “lethal triad” in trauma patients.²
- One study of Pennsylvania trauma centers found hypothermia upon admission was associated with increased odds of death after major trauma.²
- Research has shown that the survival of trauma patients, independent of the injury’s severity, depended on patient core body temperature.⁴

References

1. Tsuei, B.J., Kearney, P.A., Hypothermia in the trauma patient. *Injury*. 2004; 35:7-15.
2. Soreide E., Smith C. Hypothermia in Trauma Victims. *ITACCS*. Winter 2005; Vol. 69: No. 11.
3. Luna GK, Maier RV, Paulin EG, Anardi D, Copass MK, Orekovich MR. Incidence and effect of hypothermia in severely injured patients. *J Trauma* 1987;27: 1014-8.
4. Martin R.S. et. al. Injury-Associated Hypothermia: An Analysis of the 2004 National Trauma Data Bank. *SHOCK*. Vol. 24, No. 2; pp 114-118, 2005.



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