

L&SC Major Trauma Network Analgesic Ladder for Rib Fractures

Rib Fracture Scoring:

Risk Factor	Score
Age	+1 for every 10 years over age 10
SpO ₂	+2 per 5% decrease in SpO ₂ below 95%
No of rib fractures	+3 per individual fracture*
Anticoagulant/platelets	+4 existing anticoagulant or antiplatelet use
Chronic Lung Disease	+5 if present

* e.g. 2 fractures on 1 rib = +6

- Oxygen as required aiming for patient's individualised SpO₂ target.
- Ensure regular pain scoring and referral to acute pain team as per local guidance.
- Ensure early physiotherapy review.

