

Additional file 1: The Three Versions of Interview Schedule:

a. The First version:

Guide questions	Comments
How do Saudi paramedics and EMTs understand the impacts of ageing changes on geriatric trauma care and how they acquire and apply their knowledge? 1. Could you give me a brief summary of your career as an ambulance worker to date? <i>(Work position, job level, length of experience).</i> 2. Could you tell me about your experience during responding to older patients with injuries? <i>(Challenges or barriers during stages of prehospital care: by arrival at scene, primary, secondary survey or ongoing stage, and patient delivery).</i> 3. How do you feel when you attend older patients with injuries? <i>(Do you feel lack of confidence or negative perceptions during assessing and managing injured older patients? Why?)</i> 4. I would like you to think back to a recent case you have attended involving an older patient with injuries:	The 1st qualitative question.

<i>a. Description of the circumstances of the case.</i> <i>b. Patient was male or female? What was the case? Was the patient alone?</i> <i>c. What assessment process did you apply?</i> <i>d. Patient was transported? And Where (MTC or hospital) and why? If not transported, why?</i> <i>e. Would you have treated the patient differently if they were younger? Why?</i>	
5. Could you describe the process by which you decide whether or not older patients with injuries need to be transported to MTC? <i>(When will you transport older patients to trauma centre or trauma units? Do you use specific guidelines or your knowledge? If by your knowledge, why?)</i>	
6. How do you think the care you provide (or should provide) for older people differs? <i>(Does it differ from the care you provide to younger people? If no, why?)</i>	
7. Have you acquire appropriate or adequate knowledge regarding prehospital geriatric care? How you acquire this knowledge? <i>(Were there challenges to take education or trainings courses? How many times did you take courses during service? From private or public organisations? Were they useful? Why? could you apply this knowledge? If not, why?).</i>	

What are the facilitators and barriers to providing improved care?

The 2nd

qualitative
question.

8. What difference do you think age and the care provided to older people makes to outcomes in trauma?

(Do you think that prehospital care is more effective or less effective in older people? if less effective, why?)

9. What factors or circumstances influence your ability to provide improved care for older patients with injuries?

(Are you able to provide improved care for injured older patients? if you are unable, why? What are the factors or circumstances?)

10. What factors facilitate providing improved care for older patients with injuries (optimal care)?

Are there factors can facilitate providing improved care for older patients? if no, why?

11. Are there any differences or barriers to providing improved care for male and female older patients with injuries?

(if there are differences? Can you explain why?)

12. How confident are you in assessing and managing older patients with injuries?

(if you are unconfident, can you explain why?)

13. Can you suggest any changes or strategies that would help you provide improved care and make proper decisions or improve your ability to care for older patients with injuries?	
14. Is there anything else you would you to share with me about, or that you think I should know about, that would help us understand how Saudi paramedics or EMTs respond, assess and care for older patients with injuries?	

b. The Second version:

Guide questions	Comments
How do Saudi paramedics and EMTs understand the impacts of ageing changes on geriatric trauma care and how they acquire and apply their knowledge? 1. Could you give me a brief summary of your career as an ambulance worker to date? <i>(Work position, job level, length of experience).</i> 2. Could you tell me about your experience during responding to older patients with injuries? What are the most important challenges? Why? <i>(Challenges during responding to and caring for older patients with injuries).</i> 3. How do you feel when you attend older patients with injuries? <i>(How confident do you feel when assessing and managing injured older patients? if you feel unconfident,</i>	The 1st qualitative question.

explain why?)

4. I would like you to think back to a recent case you have attended involving an older patient with injuries:

a. Description of the circumstances of the case.

b. Patient was male or female? What was the case? Was the patient alone?

c. What assessment process did you apply?

d. Patient was transported? And where (MTC or hospital) and why? If not transported, why?

e. How did you help the patient? How did you address the problems you identified?

f. Would you have treated the patient differently if they were younger? Why?

g. Do you think this case is typical of older patients with trauma? If not, how it differs from typical cases?

(I can then contrast the case interviewees describe and their perceptions of a typical case with the characteristics of cases in the quantitative study)

5. Could you describe the process by which you decide whether or not older patients with injuries need to be transported to MTC?

(When will you transport older patients to trauma centre or trauma units? Do you use specific guidelines or your knowledge? If by your knowledge, why?)

6. How do you think the care you provide (or should provide) for older people differs?

<i>(Does it differ from the care you provide to younger people? If no, why?)</i> 7. Have you acquire appropriate or adequate knowledge regarding prehospital geriatric care? How you acquire this knowledge? <i>(Were there challenges to take education or trainings courses? How many times did you take courses during service? From private or public organisations? Were they useful? Why? could you apply this knowledge? If not, why?).</i>	
What are the facilitators and barriers to providing improved care? 8. Do you think that prehospital care is more effective or less effective in older people? if less effective, why? 9. What factors or circumstances influence your ability to provide improved care for older patients with injuries? What are the most important factors or circumstances? Why? <i>(Are you able to provide improved care for injured older patients? if you are unable, why? What are the factors or circumstances?)</i> 10. What factors facilitate providing improved care for older patients with injuries (optimal care)? What are the most important facilitators? Why? <i>(Are there factors can facilitate providing improved care for older patients? if no, why?)</i>	The 2nd qualitative question.

11. Are there any differences or barriers to providing improved care for male and female older patients with injuries? <i>(if there are differences? Can you explain why?)</i>	
12. Can you suggest any changes or strategies that would help you provide improved care and make proper decisions or improve your ability to care for older patients with injuries?	
13. Is there anything else you would you to share with me about, or that you think I should know about, that would help us understand how Saudi paramedics or EMTs respond, assess, and care for older patients with injuries?	

c. The Third version:

Guide questions	Comments
How do Saudi paramedics and EMTs understand the impacts of ageing changes on geriatric trauma care and how they acquire and apply their knowledge? 1. Could you give me a brief summary of your career as an ambulance worker to date? <i>(Work position, job level, length of experience).</i> 2. Could you tell me about your experience during responding to older patients with injuries? What are the most important challenges? Why?	For the 1st qualitative question.

(Challenges during responding to and caring for older patients with injuries).

3. How do you feel when you attend older patients with injuries?

(How confident do you feel when assessing and managing injured older patients? If you feel unconfident, explain why?)

4. I would like you to think back to a recent case you have attended involving an older patient with injuries:

a. Description of the circumstances of the case.

b. Patient was male or female? Was the patient alone?

c. What assessment process did you apply?

d. Patient was transported? And where (MTC or hospital) and why? If not transported, why?

e. How did you help the patient? How did you address the problems you identified?

f. Do you think this case is typical of older patients with trauma? If not, how it differs from typical cases?

(I can then contrast the case interviewees describe and their perceptions of a typical case with the characteristics of cases in the quantitative study)

5. How do you think the care you provide (or should provide) for older people differs?

(Does it differ from the care you provide to younger people? If no, why?)

6. Have you acquire appropriate or adequate knowledge regarding prehospital geriatric care? How you acquire this knowledge? <i>(Were there challenges to take education or trainings courses? How many times did you take courses during service? From private or public organisations? Were they useful? Why? could you apply this knowledge? If not, why?).</i>	
What are the facilitators and barriers to providing improved care? 7. What factors or circumstances influence your ability to provide improved care for older patients with injuries? What are the most important factors or circumstances? <i>(Are you able to provide improved care for injured older patients? if you are unable, why? What are the factors or circumstances?)</i> 8. What factors facilitate providing improved care for older patients with injuries (optimal care)? What are the most important facilitators? Why? <i>(Are there factors can facilitate providing improved care for older patients? if no, why?)</i> 9. Are there any differences or barriers to providing improved care for male and female older patients with injuries? <i>(if there are differences? Can you explain why?)</i>	For the 2nd qualitative question.
The following three questions will be asked to the remining participants (after the 16th interview) after displaying the following diagram which shows the key findings of the study:	After showing the below

10. Do you think all these diagram's elements are important to improving care? 11. What are the more important elements than others? Why? 12. Are there any other important elements to improving care? <pre>graph TD; A[Suboptimal geriatric care] --- B[ED staff negative perceptions and behaviours towards paramedics and EMTs]; A --- C[No clear trauma care pathway and prehospital geriatric trauma care guidelines]; A --- D[Paramedics and EMTs' misunderstanding or lacked knowledge and practice]; A --- E[Lacked acquiring of knowledge and no training courses or sponsors]; A --- F[Difficult applications of acquired knowledge and experience due to culture]; A --- G[Dealing with noncooperative, aggressive and nervous older patients and relatives];</pre>	figure to the participants to respond for the three relevant questions
13. Can you suggest any changes or strategies that would help you provide improved care and make proper decisions or improve your ability to care for older patients with injuries?	

14. Is there anything else you would you to share with me about, or that you think I should know about, that would help us understand how Saudi paramedics or EMTs respond, assess, and care for older patients with injuries?	
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