

Trauma Emergencies

T-6-A and T-6-B Specific Treatments

T-6-A Use of Tourniquet for Hemorrhage Control

Controlling severe bleeding can be challenging (especially in extremities). Use of a tourniquet can assist in the safe and effective care of patients with uncontrollable bleeding in the extremities when the appropriate precautions are taken.

The use for tourniquets is approved for both BLS and ALS providers.

Indications

- Amputations
- Uncontrollable bleeding
- Difficult or dangerous situation of care givers
- Mass Casualty Incidents
- Significant extremity hemorrhage in the face of any or all of the following:
 - Need for airway management
 - Need for breathing support
 - Circulatory shock
 - Significant bleeding from multiple locations
 - Need for other emergent interventions

Application of Tourniquet (See attached for photos and instructions)

1. Place around limb, at least 2 inches proximal to injury (NOT over a joint)
 - Be sure pockets are empty if applying to lower extremities
2. Pass the band through the outside slit
3. Pull band tight
4. Twist the windlass rod until bleeding stops
5. Lock the rod with the clip
6. Secure the rod with the strap
7. Place identifier on the patient indicating time tourniquet was applied
8. A second tourniquet may be applied if bleeding continues

NOTE: The preferred tourniquet to be used is the Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT). If a tourniquet has been applied prior to arrival of EMS personnel, maintain it and do not remove it. Do not place dressing or cover over tourniquet.

DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS

In the event of a "disrupted communications" situation where a base hospital physician CANNOT be contacted for orders, Solano County Paramedics MAY NOT utilize the portions of this protocol requiring base physician orders AND must transport to the closest receiving facility.

Trauma Emergencies

T-6-A and T-6-B Specific Treatments

T-6-B Use of Hemostatic Agents

For treating uncontrolled bleeding, severe arterial bleeding, and/or bleeding where a tourniquet is not indicated (e.g. head, trunk, neck, etc.), the use of a hemostatic agent is indicated.

The use of a hemostatic agent is optional and may be utilized by **ALS AND BLS** personnel.

Any agency electing to use a hemostatic agent must submit training outlines to the EMS Agency for approval.

The training shall consist of:

A training class that is not less than one (1) hour in length and shall include the following topics and skills:

- Review of basic methods of bleeding control to include but not limited to direct pressure, pressure bandages, tourniquets, and hemostatic dressings.
- Review treatment of open chest wall injuries.
- Types of hemostatic dressings.
- Importance of maintaining normal body temperature.

At the completion of training, a competency-based written and skills examination for controlling bleeding and the use of hemostatic dressings shall be completed.

The approved agents in Solano County are Celox Hemostatic Gauze, Combat Gauze, and HemCon ChitoFlex PRO Dressing.

Indications

Bleeding that is not controllable with the use of a tourniquet or by other means.

Application

- Open package and remove Hemostatic Gauze. Keep the empty package.
- Pack the hemostatic agent into the wound and use it to apply direct pressure over bleeding source. More than one hemostatic agent may be required.
- Continue to apply pressure for 3 minutes or until bleeding stops.
- Wrap and tie bandage to maintain pressure.

Product Removal

- Gently remove gauze from the wound.
- Thoroughly irrigate the wound.

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