


Emergency Medical Responder

SOFT TISSUE INJURIES



Soft Tissue Injuries

Soft-tissue injuries – wounds to the skin, muscles, nerves, and blood vessels.

- Wounds are classified as
 - Closed
 - Open
 - Single
 - Multiple

They can also be classified by location (head wounds, chest wounds, etc.).





Managing Closed Wounds

Contusions – cold compresses on larger contusions

Clamping injury – lubricant, cold pack, hospital treatment

Hematoma – large contusions or mechanism of injury suggests crushing injury – treat for internal bleeding



Managing Open Wounds

The second type of soft-tissue injuries we will consider are open wounds.

Treatment of Open Wounds

- 1) Assess and treat all life threats
- 2) Expose entire injury site
- 3) Control bleeding
- 4) Prevent further contamination
- 5) Clean the Wound with Soap and Water or Disinfectant
- 6) Dress and bandage wound



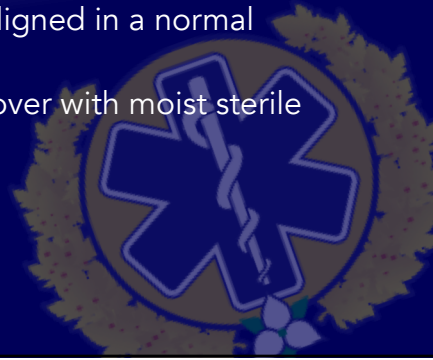


Avulsions

An avulsion is a torn flap of skin or soft tissue that has been torn loose or pulled off completely.

Emergency care for an avulsion includes making sure that the flap is lying flat and aligned in a normal position.

Flush with sterile saline and cover with moist sterile dressings.

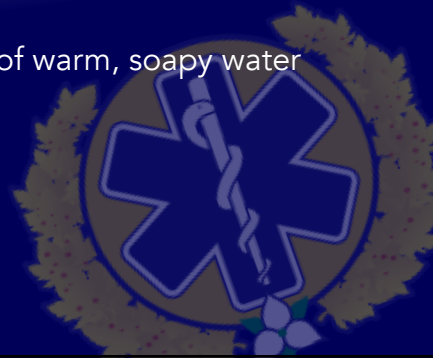


Bites

The threat of infection is unusually high with bites.

Treatment of bites:

- 1) Wash bite wound with plenty of warm, soapy water
- 2) Check for teeth fragments





Types of Dressings

- You should become familiar with the types of dressings your service carries long before your first emergency run. (See Figure 20-15, page 305.)



Types of Bandages

- 1) Triangular
- 2) Cravat
- 3) Roller bandage

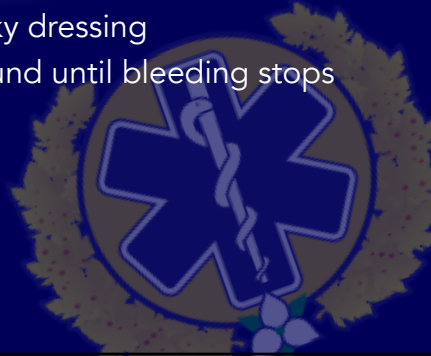
(Figure 20-16, 17, 18 pages 306- 307)





To apply a pressure dressing to a bleeding wound...

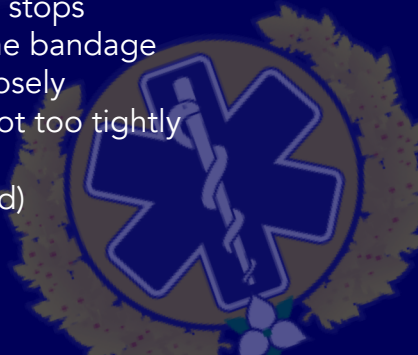
- 1) Cover wound with sterile, bulky dressing
- 2) Apply hand pressure over wound until bleeding stops
- 3) Apply a firm roller bandage



Dressing and Bandage Application

- 1) Use sterile dressing
- 2) Open dressing carefully to avoid contamination
- 3) Do not bandage until bleeding stops
- 4) Edges should be covered by the bandage
- 5) Do not bandage wound too loosely
- 6) Bandage wounds snugly, but not too tightly

(continued)





CHAPTER - SOFT TISSUE INJURIES

Dressing and Bandage Application

(Continued)

- 7) If bandaging a small wound on an extremity, cover larger area with a bandage
- 8) Always place body part to be bandaged in position it will remain
- 9) Tape bandages in place or tie them using a square knot
- 10) Leave fingers and toes exposed on bandaged arms and legs to check for circulation
- 11) Keep bandage neat in appearance

