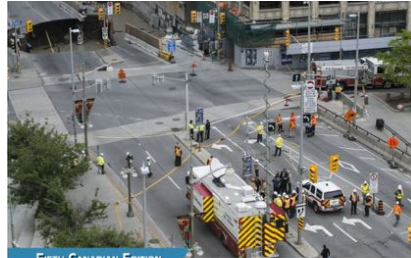


Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

A SKILLS APPROACH

MEETS PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S
NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE



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Chapter 20

Soft-Tissue Injuries

Objectives (1 of 2)

- State the types of open soft-tissue injury.
- Explain the relationship between BSI precautions and soft-tissue injuries.
- Describe the general emergency medical care of the patient with a soft-tissue injury.
- Describe the emergency medical care of open wounds that require special consideration, including chest injuries, impaled objects, large and open neck wounds, eviscerations, amputations, avulsions, and bites.



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Objectives (2 of 2)

- List the four basic functions of dressing and bandaging.
- State the 12 principles of applying dressings and bandages.
- Demonstrate a caring attitude toward the patient and family when dealing with a soft-tissue injury, while giving priority to the interests of the patient.

Soft-Tissue Injuries

- Include wounds to the skin, muscles, nerves, and blood vessels.
- **Wounds are Classified**
 - As **closed** or **open**
 - As **single** or **multiple**
 - By location (head, chest, etc.)

Closed Wounds



Figure 20-1a Contusion.

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Figure 20-1b Hematoma.

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Treatment of 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

Open Wounds

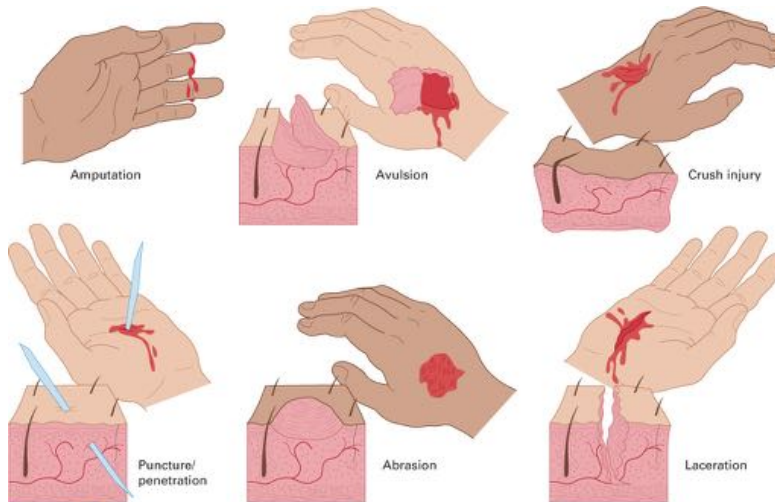


Figure 20-2 Open wounds.

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Treatment of Open Wounds

- Assess and treat all life threats
- Expose entire injury site
- Control bleeding
- Prevent further contamination
- Dress and bandage wound



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Special Considerations

- Chest injuries
- Impaled objects
- Large, open neck wounds
- Eviscerations
- Amputations
- Avulsions
- Bites

Chest Injuries

A penetrating chest wound can prevent a patient from breathing adequately apply a non-occlusive dressing

Impaled Objects (1 of 2)

- Manually secure the object to prevent any motion
- Expose the wound area
- Control the bleeding
- Use a bulky dressing to stabilize the object (a ring pad, two rolls of kling, or two rolled cravats).

Impaled Objects (2 of 2)



Figure 20-8 A cravat roll for stabilizing an object.

Large Open Neck Wounds

- Place gloved hand over wound to control bleeding
- Apply occlusive dressing
- Cover occlusive dressing with regular one
- Once bleeding is controlled, apply pressure dressing

Eviscerations (1 of 2)

- Keep handling of the exposed organs to a minimum
- Cover the exposed organs with a thick, moist, sterile dressing.
- Loosely cover the moistened dressing with an occlusive dressing
- Maintain the temperature of the wound area

Eviscerations (2 of 2)



Figure 20-10 Abdominal evisceration protected with a thick, moist, sterile dressing and an occlusive covering.

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Amputations

- Transport both parts of the patient together, if possible!



(1) Wrap it completely in saline-moistened sterile dressings.

(2) Place it in a plastic bag and seal the bag shut.

(3) Place the sealed bag on top of a cold pack or another sealed bag of ice. Do not allow the tissue to freeze.

Figure 20-12 Emergency care for an amputated body part.

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Avulsions

- Torn flap of skin or soft tissue that has been torn loose or pulled off completely
- Make sure that the flap is lying flat and aligned in a normal position
- Flush with sterile saline and cover with moist sterile dressings

Treatment of Bites

- The threat of infection is unusually high
- Wash wound with warm, soapy water
- Check for teeth fragments

Types of Dressings (1 of 4)

- Non-elastic, self-adhering dressing and roller bandage



Figure 20-15a Non-elastic, self-adhering dressing and roller bandage.

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Types of Dressings (2 of 4)

- Sterile gauze pads



Figure 20-15b Sterile gauze pads.

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Types of Dressings (3 of 4)

- Multi-trauma dressing



Figure 20-15c Multi-trauma dressing.

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Types of Dressings (4 of 4)

- Occlusive dressings



Figure 20-15d Occlusive dressings.

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Types of Bandages

- Triangular
- Cravat
- Roller bandage

Pressure Dressing for Bleeding Wound

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

Dressing and Bandage Application (1 of 2)

- Use sterile dressing
- Open dressing carefully to avoid contamination
- Do not bandage until bleeding stops*
- Edges should be covered by the bandage
- Do not bandage wound too loosely
- Bandage wounds snugly, but not too tightly

Dressing and Bandage Application (2 of 2)

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