

WOUND PACKING

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Purpose:
 - 2.1. Control junctional hemorrhage
3. Indication: Major bleeding from junctional areas including but not limited to the groin, axilla or shoulder where tourniquets cannot be used.
4. Contraindications:
 - 4.1. Wounds to the chest and abdomen
 - 4.2. Penetrating head trauma
5. Procedure:
 - 5.1. Ensure PPE is worn including gloves and eye protection.
 - 5.2. Use normal gauze to remove pooled blood, scoop with hands, use positioning to facilitate drainage. Identify the source of most active bleeding.
 - 5.3. Remove hemostatic gauze from the package if available. If hemostatic gauze is not available, follow the same steps below with rolled gauze.
 - 5.4. Apply direct pressure to the wound.
 - 5.5. Pack gauze as deeply and firmly into the wound as possible.
 - 5.5.1. If the gauze becomes saturated, continue packing.
 - 5.5.2. Do not remove saturated gauze.
 - 5.6. Reassess the wound for bleeding.
 - 5.7. Once packed, maintain firm direct pressure on the wound for 3 minutes (may be delegated to other responders).
 - 5.8. After 3 minutes, secure wound packing with a pressure dressing.
 - 5.9. Document appropriately and continue to monitor the patient for further bleeding during transport.