



Conducted Electrical Weapon Injury (i.e., TASER®)

Aliases

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Patient Care Goals

1. Manage the condition that triggered the application of the conducted electrical weapon with special attention to patients meeting criterion for delirium with agitated behavior [See [Agitated or Violent Patient/Behavioral Emergency Guideline](#)]
2. Ensure patient is appropriately secured or restrained with assistance of law enforcement to protect the patient and clinicians [See [Agitated or Violent Patient/Behavioral Emergency Guideline](#)]
3. Perform comprehensive trauma and medical assessment for injuries (e.g., from falls or altercations or concomitant medical issues)
4. If discharged from a distance, up to two single barbed darts (13 mm length) should be located
 - a. Do not remove barbed dart from sensitive areas (head, neck, hands, feet, or genitals)

Patient Presentation

Inclusion Criteria

1. Patient received either a weapon's direct-contact discharge or struck by the barbed dart of a conducted electrical weapon
2. Patient may have sustained fall or physical confrontation trauma
3. Patient may be under the influence of toxic substances and or may have underlying medical or psychiatric disorder

Exclusion Criteria

None noted

Patient Management

Assessment

1. Once patient has been appropriately secured or restrained with assistance of law enforcement, perform primary and secondary assessment including 3-lead EKG, pulse oximeter, and consider 12-lead EKG
2. Evaluate patient for evidence of delirium with agitated behavior manifested by varied combination of agitation, reduced pain sensitivity, elevated temperature, persistent struggling, or hallucinosis

Treatment and Interventions

1. Make sure patient is appropriately secured with assistance of law enforcement to protect the patient and staff. Consider psychologic management medications if patient struggling against physical devices and may harm themselves or others
2. Some EMS agencies treat all barbed darts as a foreign body and leave them for physician removal while others allow EMS or law enforcement to remove barbed darts except for