



- ii. **Materials:** hemostatic gauze, regular gauze, or any available material
- iii. **Procedure:** pack tightly and fully to the depth of the wound until bleeding stops (may require significant packing for deep, large wounds), then apply direct pressure and/or pressure dressing; do not remove packing to assess bleeding
 - 1. Pack around (do not remove) bone fragments or foreign objects
- d. Junctional tourniquets may be considered for groin or axillary wounds, if available
- e. Consider tranexamic acid (TXA) for injury associated with hemorrhagic shock if within three hours of injury
- 2. Manage pain [See [Pain Management Guideline](#)]
 - a. Pain management should be strongly considered for patients with tourniquets and suspected fractures
 - b. Do not loosen tourniquet to relieve pain
- 3. Stabilize suspected fractures/dislocations:
 - a. Strongly consider pain management before attempting to move a suspected fracture
 - b. If distal vascular function is compromised, gently attempt to restore normal anatomic position, and reassess perfusion status
 - c. Use splints as appropriate to limit movement of suspected fracture
 - d. Elevate extremity fractures above heart level whenever possible to limit swelling
 - e. Apply ice/cool packs to limit swelling in suspected fractures or soft tissue injury, but do not apply ice directly to bare skin
 - f. Reassess distal neurovascular status after any manipulation or splinting of fractures/dislocations
 - g. Dress open wounds associated with fractures with saline-moistened gauze
- 4. Remove wet or blood-soaked clothing and use measures to prevent heat loss
- 5. Remove jewelry and potentially constricting clothing from the injured limb
- 6. Do not remove impaled foreign bodies

Patient Safety Considerations

- 1. If improvised tourniquet has been placed by bystander, reassess, and consider placing commercial tourniquet proximal to it
- 2. If tourniquet is placed:
 - a. Ensure that the tourniquet is sufficiently tight to occlude the distal pulse
 - b. Ensure that the tourniquet is well marked and visible, and that all subsequent clinicians are aware of the presence of the tourniquet
 - c. Do not cover the tourniquet with clothing or dressings
- 3. Mark the time of tourniquet placement prominently on the patient and in the patient care report
- 4. Without removing the tourniquet or dressing, reassess frequently for signs of ongoing or renewed bleeding, such as:
 - a. Blood soaking through dressing
 - b. Bleeding distal to tourniquet

Notes/Educational Pearls

Key Considerations

- 1. Tourniquets should be applied to bare skin, 2–3 inches proximal to the wound
- 2. Tourniquet should be reassessed at every stage of patient movement to ensure ongoing hemorrhage control.