



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Protocols

Revised Date: May 1, 2025

EXTERNAL HEMORRHAGE CONTROL

Adult

Pediatric

BLS

Apply direct pressure to bleeding wound

Assess vital signs

O₂, titrate SpO₂ to ≥ 94%

Estimate blood loss

Significant bleeding where direct pressure is ineffective

Apply **Tourniquet** at least 3 inches above the wound (not over joint, fracture, or penetration wound site)

- Tighten until the bleeding stops or distal pulses are affected or disappear
- Record the time applied directly on the tourniquet
- Cover wound with appropriate dressing/bandage

If bleeding continues or unable to apply a tourniquet

Pack the wound with a **Hemostatic Agent**

- Apply direct pressure over wound packing
- Apply a pressure dressing
- Once applied do not remove

Consider

- Hemostatic agents are most likely to be indicated for scalp, face, neck, axilla, groin, or buttocks.
- Hemostatic agents are NOT appropriate for minor bleeding, bleeding that can be controlled by direct pressure, or bleeding from open abdominal or chest wounds.
- If tourniquet was not applied by EMS check to ensure it is properly applied.
- To control hemorrhage, tourniquets must be applied very tightly and will cause significant pain to the alert patient.

ALS

If Moderate to Severe Pain see Pain Management Protocol

Direction

- Contact Base Hospital for additional treatment

For uncontrolled epistaxis or oral bleeding

TXA 1 gm Nebulized

- Base Hospital Orders Required