

Skill Station

Wound Packing

Objective

- Demonstrate packing a wound with a hemostatic agent or plain gauze.

References

- *PHTLS: Prehospital Trauma Life Support*, 10th ed.

Evaluation

- Verify the student's ability to demonstrate the proper packing of an open wound with a hemostatic agent or plain gauze to provide hemorrhage control.

Equipment

- Wound packing model—1
- Gauze rolls for packing (plain gauze is acceptable and will simulate a hemostatic agent)—3 rolls per student
- Compression dressing—1 per student
- Personal protective equipment—1 set per student

Instructor Guidelines

1. Ensure that each student has all required materials.
2. Read the objective and the evaluation statement to students.

Performance Steps

1. The student exposes the injury by opening or cutting away the patient's clothing.
2. If possible, the student removes excess blood from the wound while preserving any clots that may have formed.

3. The student locates the source of the most active bleeding.
4. The student removes the hemostatic agent or plain gauze from its sterile package and packs it tightly into the wound directly over the site of the most active bleeding.
5. More than one gauze roll may be required to control the hemorrhage. The student uses more than one gauze roll if needed.
6. The student applies direct pressure over the wound and packing with enough force to stop the bleeding.
7. The student holds direct pressure for a minimum of 3 minutes (if using a hemostatic agent and per the manufacturer's instructions) or 10 minutes if using plain gauze.
8. After the required amount of time for application of direct pressure has elapsed, the student reassesses the patient for bleeding control.
9. The wound may be repacked as necessary to stop any continued bleeding. Old packing should not be removed.
10. The student leaves the wound packing in place and secures it in place with a compression dressing.

Critical Criteria

- The student located the source of bleeding and packed the wound appropriately to control bleeding.
- The student applied direct pressure for at least 3 minutes (if using a hemostatic agent) or 10 minutes if using plain gauze after packing the wound.