

Clear Creek EMS

PROCEDURES

Tourniquet Conversion

Description

While immediately life-saving, prolonged tourniquet application may cause soft tissue, nerve and/or ischemic injury. For patients >2 hours from the time of tourniquet application to hospital arrival, a tourniquet conversion may be considered.

Indications

- Tourniquet application >2 hours from hospital arrival.
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Procedures

- **Tourniquet Conversion**
 - SLOWLY loosen tourniquet, if bleed recurs, retighten tourniquet
 - Leave tourniquet loosely on extremity, if bleeding resumes at any time tighten tourniquet.
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Considerations

- Consider alternative bleeding control methods such as direct pressure, hemostatic gauze and wound packing, as deemed appropriate prior to attempting tourniquet conversion.
 - If conversion is unsuccessful, or in the case of amputation, consider moving tourniquet distally 2-3 inches from the wound to reduce impact of limb ischemia.
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Special Considerations

- Tourniquet conversion may be considered if tourniquet was placed during an MCI and the party is < 2 hours from hospital arrival.