

PENETRATING TRAUMA FROM TASER® WEAPONS

1. Unlike other forms of penetrating foreign bodies, Taser® barbed darts, because of their short length (1/4 in.), may be safely removed by EMS personnel when requested by law enforcement.
2. The darts should only be removed in the field if they do not involve the eye, face, neck, breast, and/or groin. Patients with retained darts in these areas should be transported to a hospital to have them removed by a physician.
3. The individual must be in police custody and EMS personnel must be convinced that the patient is adequately restrained.
4. Wear gloves.
5. Ensure that wires are disconnected from the gun or the wires have been cut.
6. Push on the body part containing the dart (straight #8 fish hook) and simultaneously pull the dart straight out.
7. Apply alcohol or iodine to the puncture area and dress as needed.
8. Treat the dart as a contaminated sharp. The darts should be placed in a biohazard *sharps* container and turned over to law enforcement.
9. If EMS provider's safety is guaranteed, all patients must be thoroughly assessed to determine if other medical problems or injuries are present.
10. If the individual does not have any other presenting injuries/illness, they may be left in the custody/care of law enforcement.
11. If transported to the hospital, follow the [Restraints for Aggressive or Violent Patients](#) policy.