



Section 14: Appendix 2: Medical Procedures

SECTION 14: TOURNIQUETS

E	EMT	E
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P

INDICATIONS

- The tourniquet is a device which is used for life threatening appendage hemorrhage that cannot be controlled with direct pressure and conventional bandaging techniques.

PROCEDURE

- Place the device around the injured appendage above the level of bleeding. Place two tourniquets around lower extremities, one above the other.
- Pull strap tight.
- Turn windlass rod or knob to tighten to control bleeding.
- Monitor the site, distal pulses should be absent if properly tightened.

KEY POINTS

- Apply directly to the skin 2-3 inches above wound.
- A distal pulse check should be accomplished. If a distal pulse is still present, consider additional tightening of the tourniquet or the use of a second tourniquet side by side and proximal to the first, to eliminate the distal pulse.
- Apply two tourniquets to lower extremity wounds. Tighten both.
- Expose and clearly mark all tourniquet sites with the time of tourniquet application.
- Use tourniquets to control life-threatening external hemorrhage that is possible to apply a tourniquet to for any traumatic amputation.