



Rigid Splint - Joint Injury

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

Paramedic

PROCEDURE

- Remove overlying clothing or jewelry obstructing assessment of the injured joint
- Cover any open wound with sterile dressing, control bleeding; support injured site during process
- Check distal circulation, sensation, and movement (CSM)
- Only attempt to realign injury if CSM is NOT present, otherwise splint in position found**
 - Realignment should be proceeded by pharmacological pain control if possible
 - To perform realignment, stabilize the bone above and below the injury
 - Apply gentle traction to the distal extremity in the direction it is facing
 - While maintaining traction, move the distal extremity back towards its anatomical position
 - Stop immediately if significant resistance or pain is detected OR when anatomical position is achieved
 - Check the distal circulation, sensation, and movement (CSM)
- Apply padded/rigid splint across joint from bone above to the bone below to form a triangle
- Secure both ends of the splint to the extremity on each side of the joint
- Check the distal circulation, sensation, and movement (CSM) after splinting and frequently thereafter
- Loosen the bandage/cravats if necessary to maintain circulation
- A sling and swathe may be used to further support upper extremity injuries

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- Fractures/injuries appropriately treated with a rigid board splint for a joint injury are: elbow and knee
- Document findings of CSM assessments in ePCR, and verbalize during transfer of care, noting any changes after splinting