



Taser Barb Removal

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

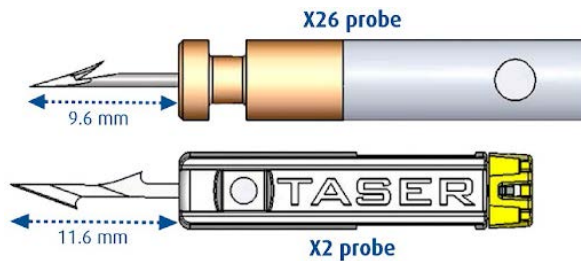
Paramedic

INDICATIONS: Removal of Taser Barbs from a person at the request of law enforcement

PROCEDURE

- Perform a patient assessment for any medical or trauma related issues ensuring that vital signs are within normal limits for the situation.
- Expose the area where the Taser barb is implanted under the skin
- Confirm that the TASER has been shut off and the barb cartridge has been disconnected
- Cut the wires from the barb if still attached
- Place one hand on the the patient in the area where the probe is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site while using the other hand (or pliers) to firmly grasp the probe
- In one uninterrupted motion pull the probe out of the puncture site maintaining a 90 degree angle to the skin (avoid twisting or bending the probe)
- Once the barb is removed and clean the area applying a dressing as necessary. If the whole barb has not been removed the patient will need further evaluation to have the remainder of the barb removed
- Repeat the procedure as needed for other embedded barbs

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- Ensure there are no underlying medical issues that need attention such as cardiac or respiratory concerns, drug usage, or signs of delirium with agitated behavior
- **Do not attempt to remove barbs** if the are embedded in the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, face, neck, genitals, spine, hands, feet, joints

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