



# Taser Barb Removal

EMT-Basic

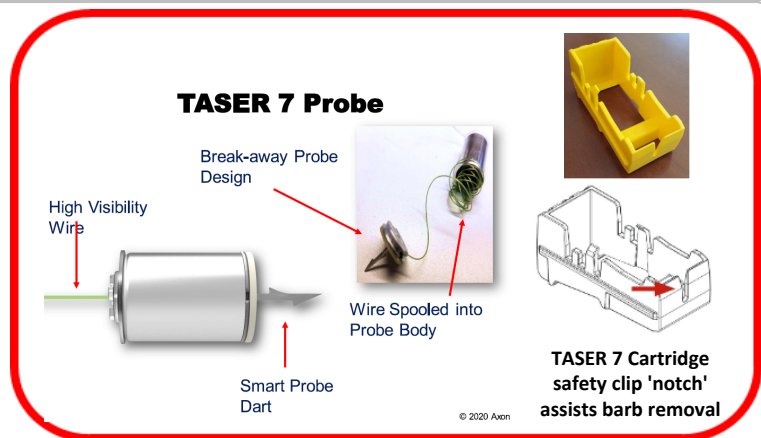
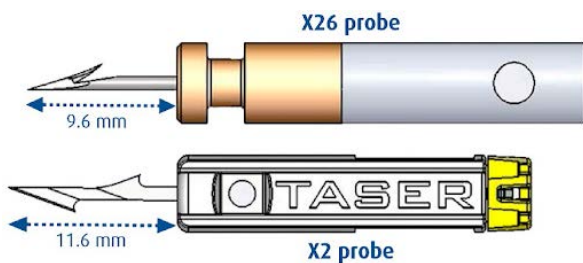
Advanced EMT

Paramedic

## 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
- If probe removal tool is available (see TASER 7 below):
  - Place one hand on the patient in the area where the probe is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site
  - Slide safety clip notch between the probe and the subject, catching the probe between the dart body and the dart point
  - In one uninterrupted motion pull the safety clip--and probe with it--straight out of the puncture site maintaining a 90 degree angle to the skin (avoid twisting or bending the probe)
- If probe removal tool is not available:
  - Place one hand on 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



## INDICATIONS

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

## 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 they are embedded in the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, face, neck, genitals, spine, hands, feet, joints

Medical Director: Ben Weston, MD, MPH

Revision Date: April 2023