



Vacuum Splints

EMT-Basic

Advanced EMT

Paramedic

PROCEDURE

- Remove overlying clothing or jewelry obstructing assessment of the injured part
- 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 joint 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 splint: wrap around the injured area, immobilizing joints above and below the injury site
- Open valve, pull on the right angle tube at connection point to the red valve stem
- Attach the suction device: with the valve in the open position, insert tapered tip of the pump hose into the right angle valve tube
- Evacuate the air, turn on the suction unit until the splint forms a rigid cast around the injured area
- Close the valve: push in the stem after the desired firmness is achieved
- Remove the suction unit and recheck the splints firmness
- Maintain support of the splint; confirm distal pulses and circulation; adjust as necessary
- Secure the splint; continue monitoring distal pulses and circulation
- To remove the splint: remove the fastening material; open the valve allowing air to enter the splint; then remove

REFERENCE GRAPHICS



KEY POINTS

- Vacuum splints may be used for any upper or lower extremity injury as long as the splint extends from the joint above through the joint below the fracture site
- Document findings of CSM assessments in ePCR and verbalize during transfer of care, noting any changes after splinting

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