

T9

GENITAL INJURIES

When treating a patient who has suffered a genital injury the EMS personnel must exhibit compassion and professionalism. Psychological support may be required.

GENERAL

- personal protective equipment should be utilized as appropriate
- body substance isolation techniques and equipment should be utilized as appropriate
- protect the patient's privacy if possible
- during the primary survey control any major bleeding
- secondary survey
- if conscious, place patient in a position of comfort whenever possible
- obtain a history and record vital signs
- provide supplemental oxygen based on patient's presenting condition and vital signs
- consider load and go criteria
 - if initiated, complete the primary and secondary survey en route
- treat all wounds
 - expose all wound sites
 - clear wounds of loose foreign material
 - apply dressings and bandages to all wounds
 - control bleeding (see External and Internal Bleeding Guideline)
- for closed wounds suspect underlying fractures
- monitor the patient closely for changes in status
- treat for shock, if indicated
- injuries of this type are often emotionally damaging
 - provide emotional support
- do not allow the patient to exert himself - e.g. walking, standing unassisted to transfer to the stretcher, etc.

- initiate transport
 - on scene times should be kept to a minimum
 - treat other life-threatening conditions en route
- transport the patient to the nearest appropriate health care facility
 - notify the receiving health care facility of the patient's status as soon as possible
 - transport in position of comfort with knees bent, if injuries permit
 - provide psychological support while en route
 - monitor and treat the patient en route
 - additional surveys and treatments should be conducted en route
- report all findings to the receiving facility staff, and document on the patient care report

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- for any genital injury consider the mechanism of injury and any legal implications, if appropriate
 - see Sexual Assault Guideline

Blunt Trauma and Superficial Injuries to Male Genitalia

- treat bleeding as per External / Internal Bleeding and Soft Tissue Injuries Guidelines
- carefully apply cold packs, if tolerated
 - do not allow cold pack to come into direct contact with skin

Amputation or Avulsion of Genitalia

- treat as per Amputations Guideline
- treat bleeding as per External and Internal Bleeding Guideline
- load and go should be initiated immediately
 - transport amputated parts with patient - see Amputations Guideline

Injuries to Female Genitalia

- treat bleeding as per External and Internal Bleeding and Soft Tissue Injuries Guidelines
- apply pressure dressings to the area
 - do not pack the vaginal opening with dressings

Impaled Objects in the Male or Female Genitalia

- stabilize the object but do not remove it
- treat bleeding as per External / Internal Bleeding and Soft Tissue Injuries Guidelines
- load and go should be initiated immediately

NOTES :