



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency Protocols

Revised Date: May 1, 2024

EXTERNAL HEMORRHAGE CONTROL

Adult	Pediatric
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BLS

Apply direct pressure
O₂, titrate SpO₂ to ≥ 94%

Direct pressure is ineffective

- Apply tourniquet at least 3 inches above the wound (not over joint, fracture, or penetration wound site)
- Tighten until the bleeding stops or distal pulses are affected or disappear
- Record the time applied directly on the tourniquet
- Cover wound with appropriate dressing/bandage

If bleeding continues or unable to apply a tourniquet

- Pack the wound with a hemostatic agent
- Apply direct pressure
- Apply a pressure dressing
- Once applied do not remove

Consider

- Hemostatic agents are most likely to be indicated for scalp, face, neck, axilla, groin, or buttocks.
- Hemostatic agents are NOT appropriate for minor bleeding, bleeding that can be controlled by direct pressure, or bleeding from open abdominal or chest wounds.
- If tourniquet was not applied by EMS check to ensure it is properly applied.
- To control hemorrhage, tourniquets must be applied very tightly and will cause significant pain to the alert patient.

ALS

Consider pain management

Direction

- Contact Base Hospital for additional treatment