

POST-TASER USE MANAGEMENT

- PURPOSE:** To outline the management of patients who have been tasered.
- SUPPORTIVE DATA:** The TASER Gun (Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle) is a less-lethal law enforcement tool used to control dangerous or violent subjects. The TASER gun is a handheld device that shoots barbed electrodes (attached to a copper wire connected to the gun) into subject's skin or clothing and then delivers an electrical current that incapacitates recipient by causing involuntary muscle contractions.
- Following the use of the TASER gun on patients by County Sheriffs, a debriefing session shall occur within 72 hours. Clinical staff, administration, and County Sheriffs shall review the incident.
- Barbs are removed by physicians or mid-level healthcare providers.
- ASSESSMENT:**
1. Assess for the following immediately after the patient is tasered:
 - Chest pain
 - Irregular pulse
 - Active bleeding at barbed electrode site
 - Bodily injury (e.g. due to a fall)
 - History of cardiac arrhythmia
 - Presence of artificial pacemaker or implanted defibrillator
- POST-TASER CARE:**
2. Cover electrode site with sterile dressing (once barb has been removed), if actively bleeding.
 3. Obtain a STAT 12-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) as ordered.
 4. Monitor ECG rhythm continuously as ordered for patients with the following:
 - Chest pain
 - Irregular pulse
 - History of cardiac arrhythmia
 - Artificial pacemaker or implanted defibrillator
- REPORTABLE CONDITIONS:**
5. Notify physician for the following:
 - Occurrence of TASER event
 - Review of 12 lead EKG
 - Need for barbed electrode removal
 - Uncontrolled bleeding at barbed electrode site
 - Need for restraints
- SAFETY:**
6. Report incident on Safety Intelligence and notify supervisor if event occurred on hospital grounds.
 7. Dispose of removed barb in sharps container.
- ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS:**
8. Implement the following protocols as indicated:
 - Restraint/Seclusion: Violent/ Self-destructive
 - Fall/Injury Prevention
 - Agitated Patient
 - Chest Pain
- DOCUMENTATION:**
9. Document in accordance with documentation standards.

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