



First Aid For Punctures

Puncture wounds are frightening and may cause shock or even death. Know how to act quickly and you could save a life.

Puncture First Aid

If the puncture is small...

- Allow the puncture to bleed.
- Bandage the wound.
- Find out if you need a tetanus “booster” shot.

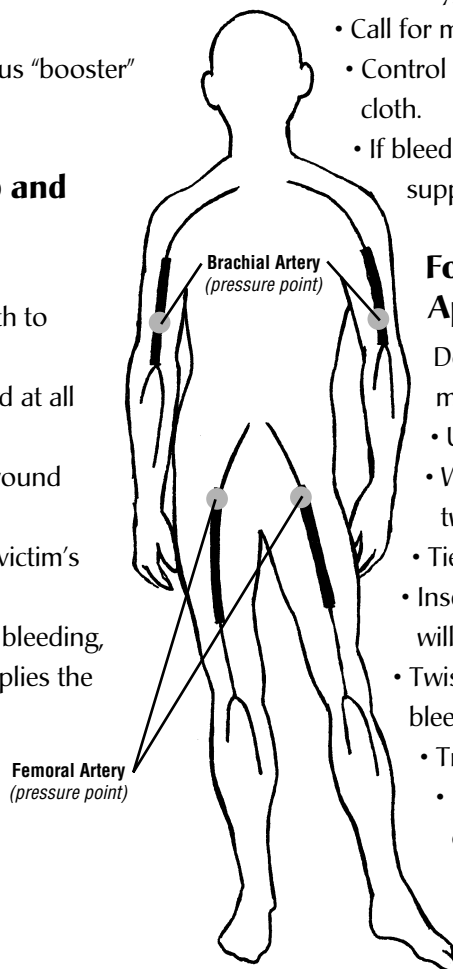
If the puncture is deep and won't stop bleeding...

- Call for medical help.
- Use a clean bandage or cloth to push on the wound.
- Keep pressure on the wound at all times.
- Wrap a bandage over the wound and tie tightly.
- Keep the wound above the victim's heart.
- If pressure doesn't stop the bleeding, press on the artery that supplies the wounded area.

Embedded Object

If the object causing the puncture wound stays stuck in the body, don't try to remove it!

- Call for medical aid.
- Control bleeding by pressing around it with a clean cloth.
- If bleeding continues, use pressure on the artery supplying the wounded area.



For Severe Bleeding— Apply a Tourniquet

Do this only if bleeding is out of control and medical help is not available immediately.

- Use a long piece of cloth—not string or wire.
- Wrap the cloth around the impaled limb twice above the wound.
- Tie a knot in the cloth.
- Insert a stick through the knot—make sure it will hold.
- Twist the stick to tighten the cloth until bleeding stops.
- Treat the victim for shock.
- Do not try to remove the tourniquet without a doctor's help—it can cause death.
- Write down the time of tourniquet application.