

PROCEDURE FOR: Amputated Digits or Extremity Parts: Care of

PURPOSE: To define the procedure for care of an amputated digit or extremity part.

EQUIPMENT: Normal saline for irrigation  
Gauze sponges  
Plastic bag  
Basin with ice

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Treatment of proximal portion of extremity.
  - a. Dress the proximal portion of the extremity with sterile moist saline sponges and wrap with role gauze.
  - a. Control bleeding with direct pressure/elevation as needed. Do not clamp or instrument vessels or nerves on the proximal wound.
2. Treatment of amputated part:
  - a. Place amputated digit or extremity part in sterile moist saline sponges.
  - b. Place amputated part wrapped in saline sponges in plastic bag and tie. Label bag with patient's name and TOO #.
  - c. Place bag in ice bath and cover with towel.
3. Obtain x-ray of the proximal extremity and amputated part per MD order.
4. Initiate appropriate surgical consult per MD.

APPROVAL: Emergency Department Unit Review  
Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/85

REVISION DATES: 5/94, 10/99, 3/06

REVIEWED DATES: 9/08