



TOURNIQUETS

TOURNIQUETS



**Louis Petit's tourniquet,
1718.**

Tourniquets

- Used for severe uncontrolled bleeding in the extremities.
 - Open wounds
 - Amputations
- Primary purpose to severely restrict or eliminate distal artery flow but will restrict venous flow as well.

Material for Tourniquet

- Must be a wide material
 - 1-4 inches
 - Commercial tourniquet (best choice)
 - Belt
 - Triangle Bandage
 - Does NOT cut into skin
 - May need a windlass
 - Nothing that stretches

Commercial Tourniquets

**Combat
Application
Tourniquet**



Commercial Tourniquets

Emergency
Medical
Tourniquet



Commercial Tourniquets

**Mechanical
Advantage
Tourniquet**



Commercial Tourniquets

SOF

Tactical

Tourniquet



Application

- Use distal or proximal of knee or elbow
- Should be applied **WELL BEFORE** patient goes into shock
- Apply as close to wound as possible
 - Limits tissue ischemia

Application

- Apply **EARLY** in assessment
- During reassessment loosen if bleeding has slowed
- **NEVER** take tourniquet completely off

Application

- Record time of application
- Make sure hospital staff is aware of tourniquet
- DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT

Complications

- Localized nerve, muscle, skin, vessel injury at application site
- Deep Vein Thrombosis
- Pulmonary Embolism
- Compartment Syndrome (prolonged application)

Additional Thoughts

- Wide tourniquets (more than 1 inch) are more effective on lower extremities
- Tourniquet may need to be retightened after initial application
- When possible, use a commercial tourniquet over an improvised one

Additional Thoughts

- If pt is conscious, have them remind hospital staff multiple times that they have a tourniquet on
- If at all possible tourniquets should not be applied for more than two hours



QUESTIONS??







