

DEFINITION:

The placement of gauze or hemostatic agents into a wound to control bleeding.

INDICATIONS:

For the control of significant hemorrhage in extremities, junctional areas, or the neck where sustained direct pressure is ineffective or impractical. Wound packing should be used in combination with direct pressure.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Place direct pressure on the wound
- B. Place finger or hand in the wound and press hard
- C. Pack sterile gauze or hemostatic agent into the wound, holding direct pressure with fingers
- D. Continue to pack gauze or hemostatic agent into the wound until no more will fit in
- E. Apply firm pressure for at least 3 minutes with hemostatic agents and at least 5 minutes with sterile gauze.
- F. Reassess wound for continued bleeding
- G. If bleeding continues, attempt to pack more gauze or hemostatic agent into wound

NOTES & PRECAUTIONS:

- A. Only apply topical hemostatic agents in a gauze form that supports wound packing.
- B. Standard gauze is as effective as hemostatic agents
- C. Use caution with wounds near fractured bones.

