



EMT-Basic Treatment Protocol 6104

Chest Trauma

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Twenty-five percent of all motor vehicle deaths are due to thoracic trauma. Rapid recognition and immediate treatment of chest injuries can prove to be life-saving.

- A. Perform **TAMP Protocol 6101**.
- B. Consider ALS backup or aeromedical evacuation – do not delay transport – meet en route.
- C. Perform the following, if indicated:
 - 1. Stabilize flail segment.
 - 2. Seal open chest wounds by taping three sides of an occlusive dressing.
 - 3. Stabilize impaled objects.
 - 4. If signs of tension pneumothorax are present (absent breath sounds, tracheal deviation, hypotension) expedite transport – meet ALS en route.
- D. Transport.

- E. **Contact Medical Command.**



Special Notes:

- 1. Chest pain after trauma could be a sign of significant injury and not cardiac chest pain. Nitroglycerin **should not be used** without MCP order.
- 2. If tension pneumothorax develops in a patient with a sealed sucking chest wound, attempt to resolve by releasing air from the seal.