

Discharge for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds (not violating the fascia)

Explore wound to evaluate depth and tract

Clean and close wound if appropriate for closure. Dress wound as needed.

Wound is hemostatic

Does the wound look infected?
(redness, warmth, purulent drainage)

YES

Treat with antibiotics per
physician judgment

NO

Prophylactic antibiotics are
not needed

Tetanus prophylaxis as indicated

Ambulate patient and evaluate for bleeding.
Redress wound as needed.

Wound teaching for patient and/or family by
RN

DISCHARGE

Patient Discharge Instructions for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds Dressing with PACKING

Please see your local doctor or return to the ER if you have any signs of infection. These signs may include:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F
- Redness of the area around the wound
- Warmth of the area around the wound
- Increased pain at the site of the wound
- Any yellow or green drainage from the wound
- Red streaks on the skin around the wound

If your wound has packing, please follow these instructions:

You may shower and let soapy water run over your wound. Pat dry with a clean wash cloth or towel. Using a Q-Tip, pack the wound with gauze or strips moistened with saline. Make sure the moist gauze comes in contact with the entire base (deepest part) of the wound. Leave a small part of the dressing outside the wound. Cover wound with non-adherent gauze. Change your dressing twice a day. Once your wound is too small to pack, you can cover the wound with Bacitracin and a non-adherent dressing and change your dressing twice daily.

If you have any concerns about your wound healing, please call your primary care doctor for follow up.

Trauma Clinic Phone Number: 615-343-1616

Patient Discharge Instructions for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds Dressing with NO PACKING

Please see your local doctor or return to the ER if you have any signs of infection. These signs may include:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F
- Redness of the area around the wound
- Warmth of the area around the wound
- Increased pain at the site of the wound
- Any yellow or green drainage from the wound
- Red streaks on the skin around the wound

If your wound DOES NOT have packing, please follow these instructions:

You may shower and wash your wound with soap and water. Pat dry with a clean wash cloth or towel. Apply a thin layer of bacitracin ointment over the wound and cover with a clean, non-adherent dressing. Change your dressing twice a day.

If you have any concerns about your wound healing, please call your primary care doctor for follow up.

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Dressings for Traumatic Wounds (not violating the fascia)

Wound Packing Criteria

- Need for packing is determined by the presence of dead space or undermining.
- Packing is needed for wounds with any exudate.
- Packing can be stopped when granulation is occurring.

Needs Packing

- Pack with saline-moistened gauze or Iodoform strips
- Cover with non-adherent dressing

Change dressing every 12 hours

No Packing

- Clean and dry wound
- Apply thin layer of Bacitracin
- Cover with non-adherent dressing

Change dressing every 12 hours

**If you have any concerns about your wound healing, please
call your primary care doctor for follow up.
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