

		SOUTHERN FOX VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM POLICY & PROCEDURES			
TITLE: ELECTROMUSCULAR DISRUPTION WEAPON POLICY					
SECTION: GENERAL POLICIES			POLICY NUMBER: D-39.0		
APPROVED BY: DR. ARTHUR PROUST EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR					
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This policy is to be used for those who have been subdued using any electromuscular disruption device (EMD). (i.e. TASER)

1. Assess the scene and ensure personal safety.
2. Assess for injury and/or altered mental status and treat per appropriate SMO
  - a. Obtain vital signs
    - ALS: 12-lead ECG monitoring and cardiac abnormalities
  - b. Identify the location of probes in patient's body. Evaluate depth of penetration
  - c. If probes are embedded in any of the following areas, stabilize in place and transport patient for definitive medical care:
    - lid/globe of the eye
    - face or neck
    - genitalia
    - bony prominence
    - spinal column
    - Chest and potential vascular structure penetration  
(i.e. possible pneumothorax, arterial bleed, expanding hematoma for potential vasculature structure penetration...etc.)
  - d. If probes are found to be superficial and the EMS provider feels they can be removed safely, the probes should be removed as follows:
    - Place one hand on the patient where the probe is embedded to provide stabilization of the skin around the point of entry
    - Firmly grasp the probe with the opposite hand.
    - Remove by gently pulling the dart straight out along the same plane it entered the body.
    - Assure the probe is fully intact and no possible retained foreign body.
    - Repeat above with the second probe if it too is imbedded in an acceptable area for removal.
    - If requested, return probes to the law enforcement officials, utilizing standard precautions and sharp handling procedures.
  - e. Control minor bleeding and cleanse the wound with normal saline as needed
  - f. If bleeding continues, cover wound with a dry, sterile dressing and bandage as needed.
  - g. Transport decision:
    - Transport decisions regarding patients subdued by EMD weapons should be based on patient condition.
    - If the patient has not had or is unsure of their last tetanus immunization, within the last 5 years, they should be advised to receive one as soon as possible.
    - If uncertain if patient should be transported for definitive medical care, contact medical control for direction.

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