

APPLY A TRACTION SPLINT

For use of this form see TC 8-800; the proponent agency is TRADOC.

TABLES: I

REFERENCES: STP 8-68W13-SM-TG, Task: 081-833-0141, Apply a Traction Splint; Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Wounded.

1. Soldier (Last Name, First Name, MI)

2. Date (YYYYMMDD)

CONDITIONS: Given a casualty with significant pain, swelling, and deformity of the mid-thigh, in a simulated combat environment. You are not in a CBRN environment.
Direct pressure, elevation, and pressure dressings applied directly to an open wound usually control external bleeding; however, internal bleeding is not always so obvious or easily controlled. In the case of a femur fracture, immobilization by counter-traction is imperative to minimize internal blood loss and tissue damage. Properly applied, a traction device may be the difference between a salvageable limb and an amputation, or even the casualty's survival or death due to internal (or even external) hemorrhage.

STANDARDS: Perform all measures IAW Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured. You must score at least 70% (11 of 15 steps) and not miss any critical (*) elements on the skill sheet.

SAFETY:

- o Risk Assessment: Low. All bodily fluids should be considered potentially infectious; always observe body substance isolation (BSI).
- o Precautions: Wear gloves and eye protection as a minimal standard of protection.
- o Environmental: None.

NOTE: Soldier Medics must be observed. (Evaluator to Soldier Medic ratio is 1:6).

TEST SCENARIO:

While performing security for a drop zone for an airborne operation, a C-130 drops 50 paratroopers. To the front of your assigned sector, you hear the call for a medic to attend an injured Soldier. As you perform your initial and rapid trauma assessment, the casualty is conscious and is complaining of severe pain in their mid-thigh, left leg. You detect moderate swelling and elicit crepitus of the left thigh and you determine the casualty's sole injury is a closed fracture to their left femur. You must apply a traction splint to the casualty's left leg; you have been provided the necessary medical equipment.

3. Evaluator's Comments and After-Test Recommendations:

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**APPLY A TRACTION SPLINT
GRADING SHEET**

| TASK | COMPLETED | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 1ST | | 2ND | | 3RD | |
| | P | F | P | F | P | F |
| 4. | | | | | | |
| a. * Took/verbalized body substance isolation (BSI) precautions. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Exposed the injury by cutting away the casualty's clothing. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Assessed the casualty's PMS. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. * Directed the assistant to manually support and stabilize the injured leg. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Placed the traction splint beside the casualty's uninjured leg and adjusted the splint to the proper length. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Fastened the ankle hitch about the casualty's ankle and foot. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. * While supporting the leg at the site of the suspected injury (<i>one hand above the site and one hand below the site</i>), directed the assistant to manually apply gentle in-line traction to the ankle hitch and foot. EVALUATOR: While applying gentle traction, the assistant may lift the casualty's leg far enough to fit the splint into place. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Slid the splint into position under the injured leg. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Padded the groin area and fastened the ischial strap. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. * Applied mechanical traction. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. Secured the Velcro straps. EVALUATOR: Ensure the assistant maintains manual stabilization until all four support straps are secure. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| l. Reevaluated the ischial strap and ankle hitch. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| m. Reassessed the PMS. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| n. Documented the procedure on the appropriate medical form. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| o. * Did not cause further injury to the casualty. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

* CRITICAL ELEMENTS

APPLY A TRACTION SPLINT EVALUATOR GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Inform the Soldier Medic of the CONDITIONS and STANDARDS as stated on this form.

Provide an optional scenario, if appropriate. This scenario should reinforce the unique or particular needs of the unit.

Allow sufficient time for the Soldier Medic to extract information from the scenario.

Provide each evaluator with the grading sheet.

Ensure the Soldier Medic has all required materials.

Explain how the exercise is graded.

Resource Requirements:

Evaluator: Grading sheet and applicable scenario.

Soldier Medic: Applicable scenario, traction splint.

Additional Scoring Guidelines:

Placed the traction splint beside the casualty's uninjured leg and adjusted the splint to the proper length.

- Placed the ring at the ischial tuberosity.
- Loosened the locking sleeve.
- Extended the splint 8-12 inches beyond the casualty's foot.
- Tightened the locking sleeve.
- Opened and adjusted the four Velcro support straps (*mid-thigh, above the knee, below the knee, above the ankle*).
- Fastened the ankle hitch about the casualty's ankle and foot.
- Threaded the ankle hitch under the casualty's ankle at the void created by the heel.
- Placed the lower edge of the ankle hitch even with the bottom of the heel.
- Crisscrossed the side straps high on the instep.
- Brought the crisscrossed straps down to meet the center strap and held them in place.

Slid the splint into position under the injured leg.

- Pulled the release ring on the ratchet and released the traction strap.
- Moved the splint between the assistant's legs so that it was aligned with the casualty's injured leg.
- Moved one hand from the fracture site and pulled the splint from between the assistant's legs.
- Slid the splint under the leg until the ischial ring was at the buttock.

Evaluator: Ensure the splint is aligned with the leg.

- When the splint was in place, positioned the hand back under the fracture site for stabilization only.
- On the assistant's signal, lowered the leg into the cradle of the splint while maintaining manual traction.
- Extended and positioned the heel stand after the splint was in position under the leg.

Applied mechanical traction.

- Attached the rings from the ankle hitch to the "S" hook from the splint.
- Tightened the ratchet mechanism by turning it clockwise.
- Directed the assistant to alert them when mechanical traction was equal to the manual traction applied.