

SEVERE BLEEDING

Managing severe bleeding

WARNING

- Wear gloves, if possible, to prevent infection.
- If patient becomes unconscious, follow DRSABCD.
- If embedded object in wound, apply pressure either side of wound and place pad around the object before bandaging.
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet. (In extreme cases of blood loss due to trauma involving a limb, a tourniquet may be considered.)

Management

1. Apply pressure to the wound

- remove or cut patient's clothing to expose wound
- apply direct pressure over wound — instruct patient to do this if possible
- if patient is unable to apply pressure, apply pressure using a pad or your hands (use gloves if available)
- squeeze the wound edges together if possible.

2. Raise and support injured part

- lie patient down
- raise injured part above level of heart
- handle gently if you suspect a fracture.

3. Bandage wound

- apply a pad over the wound if not already in place
- secure with bandage — ensure pad remains over wound
- if bleeding is still not controlled, leave initial pad in place and apply a second pad — secure with bandage
- if bleeding continues, replace second pad and bandage.

4. Check circulation below wound

5. If severe bleeding persists—nil by mouth.

6. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.

7. Treat for shock.

In an emergency, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance

For more information on St John first aid training and kits, visit www.stjohn.org.au or freecall 1300 360 455