

## Taser Injuries

### Indications:

Any patient that was subjected to taser use.

#### Routine Medical or Trauma Care Protocol (Routine-1 or 2)

↓

**EMT-B** Confer with the law enforcement officers regarding the patient's behavior prior to EMS arrival.

↓

**EMT-B** Refer to the specific protocol, if the patient has a life threatening injury, or medical illness.


↓

**EMT-B** Refer to the Combative Patient Protocol (Medical-11), if the patient continues to be combative.


↓

**EMT-B** Determine the location of the probes/barbs, and gently remove them. **DO NOT** remove the probes/barbs if significant resistance is met, unless they interfere with patient care.

↓

 Perform a 12-Lead EKG if the patient has chest pain, palpitations, hypotension, or any possible cardiac related symptom. If the patient has a dysrhythmia, refer to the appropriate protocol.

↓

 If the patient's systolic BP is less than 100 mmHg (less than 120 mmHg in patients older than 70 years old) or the HR is greater than 110 bpm, run an IV(s) of normal saline wide open. Assess the patient after each 300 ml and be alert for fluid overload.


↓

**EMT-B** Transport the patient to the closest medical facility, if an altered mental status, acute medical condition, or traumatic injury is identified.

↓

**Reassess**

↓

 **Contact Med Command for further assistance, if needed.**

### Key Points

- **ALL** patients subjected to taser use must be assessed for traumatic injuries and for medical causes for their combative behavior.
- The patient's vital signs must be reassessed every 5 minutes.
- Determine if the patient used any mind altering stimulants, has a cardiac history, and the date of their last Tetanus shot.
- **DO NOT** remove the probes/barbs if they are embedded in the patient's eye(s) or spine.
- The cord or wire may be cut, if the probes/barbs are left embedded in the patient.
- Removal of the probes/barbs. (Remove one at a time).
  - Stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site by placing one hand by where the probe/barb is embedded.
  - Pull the probe/barb straight out from the puncture site in one fluid motion.
  - Repeat the procedure with the second probe/barb.
- Dispose of the probes/barbs in a sharps container unless they are needed for evidence by the police.