

# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OF AMPUTATIONS & SEVERE INJURIES TO THE UPPER EXTREMITIES

**1 REASSURE:** Reassure the patient that there is adequate time for assessment and treatment, but make no promises or statement concerning advisability or possibility of successful replantation or ultimate outcome.

**2 ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION:** If the patient is more than 3 hours by ground from San Antonio, or if the amputation is at the wrist level or above, air transportation may be necessary after consultation with the hand surgeon on call.

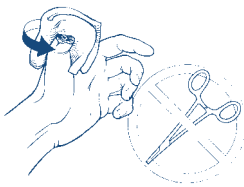
**3 TREAT FOR TETANUS:** Treat for tetanus prophylaxis and administer first generation cephalosporin if the patient is not allergic.



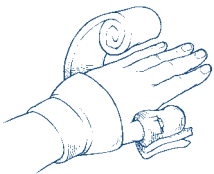
## AMPUTATION STUMP



Gently clean the amputation stump with saline soaked sponge.

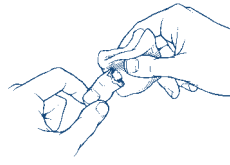


Apply saline soaked gauze sponge to the stump. **Do not** clamp or tie bleeding vessels.

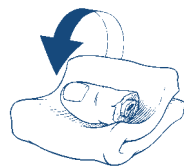


To control bleeding, elevate amputation stump and wrap with a compressive dressing.

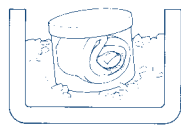
## AMPUTATION PART



Gently remove loose debris with saline soaked sponge.

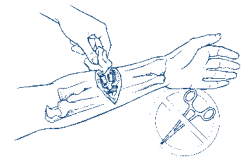


Place the amputated part in a saline soaked gauze sponge. With the part wrapped in gauze, place in a sterile container.

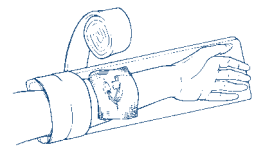


Place the sterile container in ice (not dry ice) for transportation. The amputated part should not be put directly in crushed ice, but only in container.

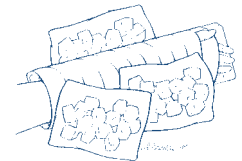
## PARTIAL AMPUTATION



Gently clean with saline soaked gauze. Do not clamp or tie bleeding vessels.



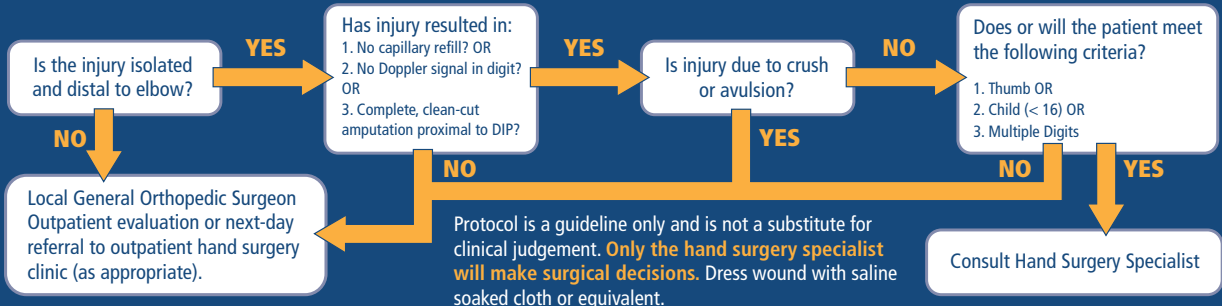
Support the injured extremity by splinting and wrapping with a compressive dressing.



If there is no circulation beyond the wound, pack ice around the injured extremity for transport.

## ISOLATED HAND INJURY ALGORITHM

STRAC Guidelines for Significant Hand Injury transfer and evaluation by a Hand Surgery Specialist



## Local Hand Specialist

Name/Phone:

**MEDCOM**  
800-247-6428 ext. 2  
(210) 297-8601

**The Hand Center**  
(210) 558-7025