

ABDOMINAL INJURIES

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Abdominal injuries – can be closed or open. Open wounds are those in which the skin has been broken and closed wounds are internal meaning the skin is intact, there is no opening to the inside of the body. If a closed wound is suspected give first aid for internal bleeding.

First aid for abdominal wounds

Begin ESM and primary survey

Wound may be open and should be prevented from opening wider. The casualty should be positioned with their head and shoulders slightly raised and supported and the knees raised.

- Try to dress the wound
- If organs are not sticking out of the skin/body, apply a dry dressing to the wound and bandage it firmly.
- If organs are sticking out, you should not put them back in the abdomen. Put a moist dressing on the organs to prevent them from drying out.
- Do **NOT TOUCH** or **PUT PRESSURE** on protruding organs.
- Do not give casualty anything by mouth and if they cough, vomits, cries etc., support the abdomen with two broad bandages
- Continue to give casualty care until they get medical attention.