

PENETRATING CHEST WOUND

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First aid for a penetrating chest wound

- Begin emergency scene management. Cover the chest wound by pressing the casualty's hand or a bystanders hand or even your own hand over the wounds so the air stops going in and out of the chest cavity.
- The casualty should be placed in a relaxed upright position with the wounded side leaning slanting a little sideways or downwards.
- Next the wound should be sealed with a four sided airtight dressing (square or rectangular shape) and only seal three of the sides so that air can get out of the wound but not in. The side towards the ground should not be sealed so it gives the dressing a flutter effect; It becomes a flutter-type valve.
- If breathing is still not good, give assisted ventilations. If breathing becomes effective, keep caring for casualty until help arrives. If still difficult to breathe the person may be developing tension pneumothorax.