

# Taser Dart Removal

**Indication:** Prehospital removal of taser darts from a patient's skin.

**DO NOT remove taser darts from genitals, face, eyes, and neck.**

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Don appropriate PPE (gloves, eye protection).
2. Use the non-dominant hand to form a "V" around the dart to stabilize the surrounding skin.
3. Firmly grasp the dart with the dominant hand. With one smooth hard jerk, pull the dart out from the skin.
4. Examine the dart to ensure that it is intact (check for the presence of a sharp tip and a barb). Dispose of the dart as a contaminated sharp.  
**NOTE:** If there is suspicion that a fragment has been retained, the patient should be transported to the emergency department for removal.  
**NOTE:** Confirm with law enforcement before disposal to ensure that the removed dart does not need to be retained for law-enforcement purposes. If the dart is to be retained, it should be placed into an empty sharps container.
5. Clean and dress the puncture wound and counsel the patient on signs and symptoms of infection.

**NOTE:** Secondary injuries, such as injuries from falls, are common after a taser has been deployed. It is important to perform a thorough assessment for additional injuries or evidence of underlying medical conditions / altered mental status.

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