

SEVERE BLEEDING

Managing severe bleeding

WARNING

- Wear gloves, if possible, to prevent infection.
- If patient becomes unconscious, follow DRSABCD.
- If embedded object in wound, apply pressure either side of wound and place pad around the object before bandaging.
- DO NOT apply a tourniquet. (In extreme cases of blood loss due to trauma involving a limb, a tourniquet may be considered.)

Management

- 1. Apply pressure to the wound**
 - remove or cut patient's clothing to expose wound
 - apply direct pressure over wound — instruct patient to do this if possible
 - if patient is unable to apply pressure, apply pressure using a pad or your hands (use gloves if available)
 - squeeze the wound edges together if possible
- 2. Raise and support injured part**
 - lie patient down
 - raise injured part above level of heart
 - handle gently if you suspect a fracture
- 3. Bandage wound**
 - apply a pad over the wound if not already in place
 - secure with bandage — ensure pad remains over wound
 - if bleeding is still not controlled, leave initial pad in place and apply a second pad — secure with bandage
 - if bleeding continues, replace second pad and bandage
- 4. Check circulation below wound**
- 5. If severe bleeding persists — nil by mouth**
- 6. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance**
- 7. Treat for shock**

In an emergency, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance

For more information on St John first aid training and kits, visit www.stjohn.org.au or freecall 1300 360 455