Taser Barb Removal

PROCEDURE

STEPS

1. Follow appropriate scene safety; ensure your safety before removal
2. Wear proper PPE, including eye protection
3. Stabilize skin with the non-dominant hand, kept a safe distance away to avoid sharps exposure
4. Grab the barb and pull straight back with a 90-degree motion until it exits the skin
5. Ensure the entire barb was removed
6. Full patient assessment and cardiac monitor applied, to rule out cardiac arrhythmias
7. If not transporting to a hospital: proper wound care — clean and dress the wound
8. This is an ALS ePCR

BEFORE YOU START

- Indications: law enforcement asks for removal before transport to a facility other than a hospital
- Removal prior to transport to hospital
- Do NOT attempt removal if the barb is in: eye, eyelid, face, breast, groin/genitalia, joints, or cartilage (ear, nose)

KIT YOU NEED

- PPE including eye protection
- Wound care / dressing supplies

IF IT GOES WRONG

- Barb in the eye, face, breast, groin, a joint, or cartilage: do not attempt removal (see Before You Start)

Take Home Message:

Pull straight back at 90 degrees, confirm the whole barb is out, and every taser patient gets a full assessment and a cardiac monitor.