

**FOOTHILL COLLEGE EMS PROGRAMS
SAGER TRACTION SPLINT
SKILLS LAB**

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVE

Rescuer will demonstrate the ability to apply a Sager Traction Splint. Taking More than 15 minutes is a “FAIL” for this skill.

CONDITIONS

The patient is conscious, supine on the ground. The patient complains of severe pain in a leg (closed fracture of a femur). The trauma patient assessment has been completed and there are no further injuries. ***The “patient” will remove their shoes and socks.*** It is assumed the clothing has been removed from the patient’s legs. A helper is available to assist.

EQUIPMENT

1 Rescuer Helper 1 Patient

1 Sager Traction Splint with thigh strap already attached, plus the following components

- 3 wide velcro straps of various lengths
- Right & Left ankle straps
- Padding Material
- 1 Figure 8 strap - 1 inches wide by 18 inches long

Rescuer States: “I would perform PENMAN” and report patient’s General Impression, as stable or unstable”
Rescuer States: “My name is _____, I’m an EMT. I’m going to help you.” Reassures patient Explains procedure to patient
Rescuer Directs Helper to Immobilize Injured Leg: Directs helper to place, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One hand anterior and proximal to the knee, below the fracture site. ● Second hand posterior and proximal to the knee, below the fracture site.
Rescuer Performs Neuro Check: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● P: Palpates dorsal pedal or posterior tibial pulses on both feet (Reports to scorer presence or absence) ● C: Assesses capillary refill on both feet. (Reports to scorer)M: Assesses movement of both feet (Holds ankles) Asks: “Please wiggle your toes.” ● S: Assesses sensation on both feet. Asks: “Which toe am I touching?”
Rescuer Performs Sizing, Placement, and Securing of splint: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assure Traction Handle is facing up. Adjusts the thigh (groin) strap so that the buckle will lie on top of the thigh (Places strap high up on the thigh) 2. The splint’s perineal cushion is placed snugly against the perineum (groin) on the inside of the injured leg. Slides groin strap under injured leg. Buckle of the groin strap is snugly fastened on top of the thigh. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. For Skills Practice and Testing Only - (For lab practice only - If the strap is difficult to access, the patient (student) will get the strap end - respect modesty / privacy.) 3. Extends the splint so the end is just past the sole of the foot (within 1” of heel)
Rescuer Performs: Secures Ankle Strap Around the Ankle and to the Splint. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selects correct ankle strap, (L) or (R) 2. Loosens ankle attachment straps to allow for slack. 3. Arranges ankle pads to fit the patient's ankle. 4. Assures buckle of ankle strap is on the outside of the ankle (not next to splint) 5. Secures ankle strap around patient’s ankle, just above the malleolus. 6. Attaches strap to splint. Removes any slack remaining in the ankle strap. 7. Verify ankle pads and straps are secured to splint without twists.
Rescuer Performs: Applies and Secures Splint to Leg <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extends inner shaft of splint while lifting lock mechanism (<i>prevents it from clicking – the vibration could cause pain.</i>) Keeps upper part of splint from sliding down by holding it with free hand

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2. Ask the patient's weight, apply traction based upon 10 percent of the patient's body weight, NOT to exceed 15 pounds of traction. Ensures the splint is locked. (Pushes down on latch). Folds traction handle down
3. Directs helper to discontinue stabilization
Rescuer Performs: Secures Leg to Splint <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pads as necessary between splint and leg2. Secures leg support straps (Bottom to Top). Straps may go around the knee or over fracture.3. Above ankle (Strap #1)4. Below knee (Strap #2)5. Around both thighs (Strap #3)6. Prevents lateral rotation by securing fractured leg to the uninjured leg with a strap tied in a figure eight (8) around the splint, ankles and feet.
Rescuer Performs Neuro Check: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● P: Palpates dorsal pedal or posterior tibial pulses on both feet (Reports to scorer presence or absence)● C: Assesses capillary refill on both feet. (Reports to scorer)M: Assesses movement of both feet (Holds ankles) Asks: "Please wiggle your toes."● S: Assesses sensation on both feet. Asks: "Which toe am I touching?"
States: "I would secure the patient and splint to the longboard to prevent movement of the splint."

Critical Criteria

- ___ Loss of traction at any point after it is assumed or applies inadequate traction
- ___ Failure to apply manual traction before elevating the leg
- ___ Did not reassess motor, sensory and circulatory functions in the injured extremity **after** splinting
- ___ The foot is excessively rotated or extended after splinting
- ___ Final immobilization failed to support the femur or prevent rotation of the injured leg
- ___ Failure to manage patient as a competent EMT
- ___ Fails to apply splint in 15 minutes