

SUBJECT: WRAPPING HAND SPLINTS FOR BURN PATIENTS	REFERENCE #8109
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PURPOSE:

- To provide a uniform method of applying ace bandages with hand splints on burn patients to:
 - Provide pressure on scar tissue to reduce contractures and prevent hypertrophy
 - Provide circulatory support
 - Immobilize the extremity after grafting

PROCEDURE:

- Preparation:
 - Verify physician’s written order
 - Identify the patient using two (2) patient identifiers
 - Explain procedure to patient/family
 - Choose the appropriate sized ace wrap for the extremity
 - Line the splint with a layer of gauze padding
- Wrapping Technique:
 - Place the patient’s hand on the padded splint with the palm down. The web portion of the splint should be well into the thumb index web. The wrist should be slightly extended, and the fingers slightly flexed while the thumb is placed in opposition.
 - Holding the ace roll, place the roll on the ulnar side, just proximal to the ulna styloid.
 - The end of the wrap is tucked under the anterior side. Then make one (1) turn around the wrist anchoring the splint. Stay well below the base of the thumb.

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- The roll is then slanted down across the dorsum of the hand and rolled through the web of the splint between the thumb and index finger.
- Continue to roll underneath the splint to mid-dorsum of the fingers, just below the MCP joints.
- Bring the roll over the dorsum of the fingers, twice.
- Bring the wrap around the thumb.
- Continue up the forearm in a spiral fashion with 1/2 overlay to secure the splint.
- Aftercare:
 - The extremity is checked every two (2) hours, for capillary refill and numbness, to assure that the ace wrap is not too snug.
- Documentation:
 - Time and date the splint was applied
 - Location of splint
 - Condition of the limb
 - Patient's response
 - Education given to the patient/family regarding the procedure and their understanding of the rationale
 - All post procedure checks
 - Name of Occupational Therapist performing the procedure

REFERENCE:

Irion, G., PhD, PT, CWS, *Comprehensive Wound Management*, Slack Incorporated, Second Edition, 2010