AMPUTATED EAR/FINGERS

FIRST AID
WHAT A LAYMAN CAN DO UNTIL HEALTHCARE WORKER ARRIVES

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First aid or emergency care given immediately after the amputation has a critical impact to salvage and reattach the severed part(s).

A well-preserved part can be successfully reattached as much as 24 hours after the amputation occurs. Tissue that has not been preserved will not survive for more than six hours.

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The important steps to take when an amputation occurs:

0 Contact the nearest emergency services provider, clearly describe what has happened, and follow any instructions given.

0 Control bleeding using direct pressure and elevate the injured area

0 Use a tourniquet and compression bandage
Patients should not be moved if back, head, leg, or neck injuries are suspected.

Position the victim flat, with the feet raised 12 inches above the surface.

The injured site should be cleansed with a sterile water and wrapped in a clean towel that will protect the wound from further injury.

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0 Clean the cut part to prevent wound contamination

Elevate the cut part and cover with clean cloth
0 Saving the patient's life is always more important than recovering the amputated part(s).

0 Transporting the patient to a hospital or emergency center should never be delayed.
0 Wrap the cut part in a clean, damp cloth, place it in a sealed plastic bag and place the bag in an ice water bath.

0 DO NOT put the body part directly in water without using a plastic bag.

0 DO NOT put the severed part directly on ice.
0 Preserve the cut part in clean plastic bag

0 Put the amputated part covered in plastic in ice water bath
A number of factors influence whether an amputated part can be successfully reattached. These include:

0 Age and health of the patient
0 Location and type of amputation
0 Amount of contamination to the wound
0 Length of time the amputated part was detached from the body

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Prevention

0 Prevention is the best medicine.

0 Observe precautions such as using seat belts and obeying speed limits and other traffic regulations.

0 It is important to take special precautions when using potentially dangerous equipment.

0 Appropriate protective clothing should be worn at all times.

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