

PEPPER SPRAY / TEAR GAS
(OC Spray, Capstun, Freeze, Freeze +, Freeze + P, OC/CS Spray, plus others)

Level I
(If subjective data sufficient, no exam is necessary.)

Skill Level: RN

Definition: Post exposure evaluation and treatment of an inmate recently exposed to/sprayed with Oleoresin Capsicum ingredient, and or CS "Tear gas".
 Pepper = OC = Oleoresin Capsicum
 Tear gas = CS = Chlorobenzylidene Malonitrile

<p>Subjective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I've been pepper sprayed / Tear gassed". 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration in comfort.
<p>Objective:</p> <p>OC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes unable to speak more than four words without pausing for breath. • No history of asthma or COPD episode requiring emergency treatment. • Redness of eyes. • Reddened to blistered skin. • Rapid respirations or difficulty breathing. <p>CS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No history of asthma or COPD episode requiring emergency treatment. • Eyelids can spasm shut • Redness of eyes • Reddened to blistered skin • Difficulty breathing – unable to speak more than four words without pausing for breath. 	<p>Plan:</p> <p>Symptomatic care, at nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct patient to rinse skin/eyes with cool water. Blot eyes with a towel; don't rub. • If possible move patient to well ventilated area. Apply Asthma protocol if patient is wheezing. • Observe patient continuously until respirations are acceptable (respiratory rate less than 20 per minute) and normal speech. • If respirations stable and patient able to talk, request patient be allowed to shower. • Expect symptoms to last 20 minutes or more. • Contact provider if vitals or clinical status are worsening or not gradually improving.

Pepper Spray/Tear Gas – Level I

Nursing Education:

1. Cool water to shower
2. Have patient sit while showering because spray effects may return.
3. Be careful to avoid self-exposure to agent.
4. Respiratory problems from CS exposure may peak at 12 hours post-exposure, but should develop slowly if at all.
5. OC and CS do not affect the heart.

APPROVED:

Medical Services Manager

Date

Chief Medical Officer

Date



Medical Director

10/13/09

Date

Effective Date: Oct. 2009

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