

Preferred Features for Chest Seals

CoTCCC

17 November 2010

The CoTCCC has not recommended a particular chest seal to treat open pneumothoraces (sucking chest wounds) in the tactical setting, but has defined a set of *preferred* features for chest seals. The current list is as follows:

- FDA approved
- Sterile
- Device adheres despite the presence of blood, sweat, hair, and sand
- Adheres despite storage as defined in Military Standard 8.10G
- Minimum incidence of allergic reactions to adhesive
- Self-adherent
- Oval shape
- 6-8 inches or larger in size
- Creates an occlusive seal
- Ventable through lifting a flap on the seal
- Reseals well after venting
- Puncture-resistant packaging
- Long shelf life
- Minimized weight and cube
- Integrity and function maintained when stored or carried in folded configuration
- Lightweight and ruggedized
- Inexpensive
- Good clinical outcomes after review of battlefield use data when available
- Easily applied in battlefield situations
- Has tabs to facilitate removal of adhesive
- High rate of user acceptance
- Configured for ease of use in low-light environments
- Packaged two per package

* No data is available that supports any benefit from a valve in the seal