

My experience with the use of the Faretec CT-6

By: Allan Pedersen, EMT Supervisor, PHTLS Instructor, TCCC Instructor etc.

I was doing a 24 hour shift on my regular “rural” area ambulance about a month ago.

Around noon we responded to an emergency call at the local supermarket. The initial info on the screen was “Elderly man with Femur fracture”.

Upon our arrival I completed my Primary Survey and concluded that the patient was A-B-C-D-E stable but with an isolated Femur Fracture to his Right side.

I initiated “simple” pain management with Nitrous oxide and asked my colleague to bring the CT-6 from the Ambulance.

After approximately 5 min. of pain treatment with Nitrous oxide we started applying the CT-6. This was the first time we had too use it “for real”! It was implemented in our system around December 2009, so we had only done training with it so far.

The procedure just went perfect. We unpacked the CT-6 from the bag and it almost unfolded itself. I measured out the length on the LEFT leg so that I had the “normal” length of the patient’s legs. I then applied the strap around the “groin” area and the ankle strap. During my Patient assessment I had removed the patients shoe to be able to feel if there was a pulse present “south” of the fracture, therefore the ankle strap was applied on a foot with only the patient’s sock in place. After this I applied a little tension too the CT-6 so that it was in the right position to apply the rest of the straps. Due to the fact that the fracture was Mid. Femur I was able to apply all 4 Velcro straps to the leg for complete immobilization.

Now I was ready to apply tension. I started applying the tension in a slow and steady pace and I could visually follow the movement of the fractured femur settling in to “normal” position again. I used my visual judgment and the VAS score to determine when I had applied enough tension. Before applying the CT-6 my patient scored 9-10 on the VAS and after applying the CT-6 he scored 3-4.

After this we were able to transport him nice and easy too the ER without advanced pain treatment.

The CT-6 has given us a tool that we never had before. A tool that efficient immobilizes Femur fractures. The CT-6 is simple, durable and very intuitive too use for EMT personal, and that follows our need for KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) equipment in a sometimes stressful environment.

I will personal recommend every EMS to carry a CT-6 on there ambulances, even though it is not nearly everyday we encounter a Femur fracture, it is just such a great tool to have when it is needed!



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