

WARNING!!!

An injury caused by high pressure waterjets can be serious. In the event of any waterjet injury:

- Seek medical attention immediately. Do not delay!
- Inform the doctor of the cause of the injury.
- Show the doctor this card.
- Tell the physician what type of waterjet project was being performed at the time of the accident and the source of the water.

IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION!

READ THIS PLASTIC CARD AND KEEP IT IN YOUR WALLET. IN THE EVENT OF A WATERJET INJURY, SHOW THE CARD TO YOUR DOCTOR.

MEDICAL ALERT NOTE TO PHYSICIAN

This patient may be suffering from a waterjet injury. Evaluation and management should parallel that of a gunshot injury. The external manifestations of the injury cannot be used to predict the extent of internal damage. Initial management should include stabilization and a thorough neurovascular examination. X-rays can be used to assess subcutaneous air and foreign bodies distant from the site of injury. Injuries to the extremities can involve extensive nerve, muscle, vessel damage, as well as cause a distal compartment syndrome. Injuries to the torso can involve internal organ damage. Surgical consultation should be obtained. Aggressive irrigation and debridement is recommended. Surgical decompression and exploration may also be necessary. Angiographic studies are recommended pre-operatively if arterial injury is suspected. Bandages with a hygroscopic solution ($MgSO_4$) and hyperbaric oxygen treatment have been used as adjunctive therapy to decrease pain, edema and subcutaneous emphysema. Unusual infections with uncommon organisms in immunocompetent patients have been seen; the source of the water is important in deciding on initial, empiric antibiotic treatment, and broad-spectrum intravenous antibiotics should be administered. Cultures should be obtained.