

### What is Hemostatic Gauze?

Hemostatic gauze is a first aid miracle that came into full use on the battlefield in the last two wars. It prevented a lot of deaths from massive arterial hemorrhages in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hemostatic gauze is manufactured with a compound that accelerates the blood-clotting process, thereby helping to prevent blood loss. There are two classes of material that are currently approved by CoTCCC. The first is QuikClot Combat Gauze, manufactured with kaolin. Kaolin is an inorganic mineral that activates the clotting cascade and promotes blood clotting.

The second class of material involves gauze and a chitosan material. Chitosan is derived from shellfish. When the chitosan-based gauze is packed into the wound, it interacts with blood to form a gel-like membrane that helps stop bleeding. It is of note that there has never been a reported reaction to chitosan-based gauze by people with shellfish allergies.

The hemostatic gauzes are packed directly into the wound. By doing so, you are also applying the blood-clotting agent directly to the bleeding source in one step, thus saving valuable time in stopping blood loss. As with tourniquets, the different hemostatic gauzes should be used carefully and applied according to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. Get several and keep them in your blowout kit.

### What Does a Hemostatic Agent Do?

When a hemostatic agent comes in contact with blood, there is a chemical reaction that accelerates blood clotting or forms a gel-like membrane to promote blood clotting, depending on the type of hemostatic agent used. Hemostatic agents are ideal when a wound is located on the body where controlling bleeding is difficult with direct pressure or with a tourniquet. These locations include wounds on the neck, groin, axilla (armpit), or high up on extremities near the torso.

Hemostatic agents, in addition to being manufactured on rolls of gauze, are also available in powdered form. However, the powdered form of these agents is no longer recommended by either the TCCC or the TECC. We