

MEDSOURCE

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Break-Apart Stretchers [User Manual]

Models: MS-SCP123, MS-SCP124



MedSource Labs
8600 Shelby Court
Chanhassen, MN 55317, USA
Phone: 800.876.8264
www.medsourcelabs.com
REV. 02

[Defibrillating on the Break-Apart Stretcher]

Defibrillation is safe on the Break-Apart Stretcher as long as all standard safety precautions are taken.

[Raising the head of the bed for transport]

If the head of the stretcher is raised by one notch, the patient can be transported on the Break-Apart Stretcher with no pressure on the spinal column as would occur with the Long Spine Board, as a gap will form between the Break-Apart Stretcher and the Ambulance Stretcher. This is especially advantageous if a dislocation of the vertebrae has occurred, or swelling within the spinal column is developing.

[Pre-strapping for large patients]

If a large patient is to be immobilized on the Break-Apart Stretcher, it is worthwhile pre-lengthening the straps and attaching them to the Break-Apart Stretcher before bringing the Break-Apart Stretcher's sides together.

[Overcoming jamming of the head and foot lock couplings]

The lock couplings for the head and foot ends of the Break-Apart Stretcher have been designed to jam when any weight is on the Break-Apart Stretcher plates. This is an intentional design feature so that if the lock release is accidentally depressed while a patient is being carried on the Break-Apart Stretcher, the lock will not open.

Overcoming this jamming problem when opening and closing the Break-Apart Stretcher simply requires the Trained Operator to bring the male and female ends of the couplings in line with each other.

NOTE: Some practice is required to master the technique.

Holding the Break-Apart Stretcher couplings correctly- one hand on either side of the lock with thumbs on the top-makes operating the locks easier.



Correct Position for
Opening Lock



Patient Laying
on Break-Apart Stretcher



No Patient on
Break-Apart Stretcher

[Adjusting the length]

The length of the Break-Apart Stretcher should be adjusted before the Break-Apart Stretcher is split open.

If this does not occur and the Break-Apart Stretcher needs to be lengthened or shortened after the patient is on the Break-Apart Stretcher, this is easy to achieve as long as pressure on the leg extension plate is removed. If the Trained Operator forgets to adjust the length before application, fully extend both sides and leave the locks loose until after the application of the Break-Apart Stretcher.

When changing the length, if pressure remains on the plates, the leg extension section may jam. As the leg extension pole must be aligned to the hole which it is to slide into. The tight fit is essential for stability of the Break-Apart Stretcher for spinal cord injured patients and to reduce lateral spreading of the plates that occurs when the weight of the patient is taken up by the Break-Apart Stretcher.

To lengthen or shorten the Break-Apart Stretcher, lift the patient's legs off the foot plate and it will slide easily.

Periodic lubrication of the leg extension poles with a dry stick lubricant will also help.



Lengthening before splitting



Adjusting length after splitting

[Side by side application of the Break-Apart Stretcher]

Training Requirements:

2 x Staff

1 x Patient

1 x Break-Apart Stretcher

Points to Remember:

- Use the Break-Apart Stretcher only on flat surfaces.
- Pull patient's clothing tight at shoulders and bottom to prevent pinching.
- Pull patient's clothing out laterally, never upwards, otherwise spinal column movement may occur.
- Minimal movement of the patient should occur during the application.

In this procedure, the Operator's limb closest to the patient's head will be referred to as the Operator's upper limb, and the Officer's limb closest to the patient's feet will be referred to as the officer's lower limb.

Procedure:

[STEP 1]

Both Trained Officers place the Break-Apart Stretcher at the patient's side.



[STEP 2]

Extend the Break-Apart Stretcher to the correct length before splitting. For measuring the device, position the Break-Apart Stretcher so that a shoulder speed clip attachment point lies 1 cm below the level of the patient's shoulders.



Loosen the leg extension locks and adjust the leg section to the correct length (heels of patient's feet level with the bottom of the foot plate). Re-tighten locks to finger pressure only.



[STEP 3]

Split the Break-Apart Stretcher in half and place appropriate sections on either side of the patient.



[Side by side application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 4]

To apply the Break-Apart Stretcher, both Trained Operator's now move to same side of the patient.



[STEP 5]

Trained Operator 1 at the patient's chest, grasps patient's clothing at the shoulder with their upper hand and gently pulls the clothing tight laterally, to prevent pinching during the Break-Apart Stretcher application. Trained Operator 1's lower hand is placed on the side of the Break-Apart Stretcher lower down.



Trained Operator 2 at the patient's pelvis, grasps the patient's clothing at the patient's bottom with their upper hand and gently pulls the clothing laterally to prevent pinching during the Break-Apart Stretcher application. Trained Operator 2's lower hand is placed on the side of the Break-Apart Stretcher at the leg extension pole.

NOTE: It has been shown that when Operators try other hand placements, application is not easy or as quick.



[Side by side application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

The side of the Break-Apart Stretcher is slowly and gently slid under the patient until it is approximately half-way under the patient.



[STEP 6]

Both Trained Operator's move to the opposite side of the patient and carry out step 5 again until, the locking mechanisms are at the head and foot ends are touching.



[STEP 7]

Both Trained Operator's now move to the head end of the Break-Apart Stretcher. Whilst Trained Operator 1 closes the head locking mechanism, Trained Operator 2 places lateral inward pressure on the sides of the Break-Apart Stretcher-no more than 30cm from the locking pin-to allow the 2 halves of the lock to come together easily.



[Side by side application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 8]

Trained Operator 2 moves to the foot end of the Break-Apart Stretcher and closes the foot locking mechanism.

At the same time Trained Operator 1 straddles over the patient and pulls the clothing laterally at the patient's pelvis, while helping to close the locks by pushing their heels against the extension poles.



[STEP 9]

The patient can now be immobilized to the Break-Apart Stretcher for transport.

If the patient is supine on the Break-Apart Stretcher, place the Break-Apart Stretcher on the Ambulance stretcher with the head of the stretcher pre-raised one notch, so that there is no pressure on the patient's spinal column.



[Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher]

Training Requirements:

1 x Staff

1 x Patient

1 x Break-Apart Stretcher

The Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher is often preferred over the Side-By-Side application when the patient is supine or in a confined space such as a hallway. Application time can be as little as 40 seconds using this method.

Points to Remember:

- Use the Break-Apart Stretcher only on flat surfaces.
- Pull clothing tight at the shoulders and bottom to prevent pinching.
- Pull clothing out laterally, never upwards, otherwise spinal column movement occurs.
- Minimal movement of the patient should occur during the application.

Procedure:

[STEP 1]

The Trained Operator places the Break-Apart Stretcher at the patient's side.

Extend the Break-Apart Stretcher to the correct length before splitting. For measuring the device, position the Break-Apart Stretcher so that the shoulder speed clip attachment point lies 1 cm below the level of the patient's shoulders.



[Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 1 continued]

Loosen the Break-Apart Stretcher leg extension locks and adjust the leg section to the correct length. (Patient's heels of feet level with bottom of the foot plate). Re-tighten locks with finger pressure only.



[Step 2]

Split the Break-Apart Stretcher at the foot end (leaving head end closed) and straddle over the patient's legs.



[Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 3]

The Break-Apart Stretcher is now laid on the ground with the bottom of the body plates level with the patient's upper arms.

Slide the Break-Apart Stretcher down the patient into position, until the head locking mechanism is 2cm above the top of the patient's head.



[STEP 4]

The Trained Operator now grasps the patient's clothing at their shoulders and gently pulls the clothes tight laterally to prevent pinching during the application.

The Trained Operator then places their feet against the sides of the Break-Apart Stretcher, with the heels of the feet against the Break-Apart Stretcher, and begins to push the sideplates of the Break-Apart Stretcher under the patient until the plates touch the patients bottom.



[Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 5]

The Trained Operator now moves down to the patient's pelvic region and again straddles over the patient. The Trained Operator then grasps the patient's clothing at the bottom and gently pulls the clothes out laterally, so that they are tight (to prevent pinching).

The Trained Officer's feet are placed against the sides of the Break-Apart Stretcher and with the heels of the feet at the leg extension poles, begins to push the side plates of the Break-Apart Stretcher under the patient until both sides of the foot locking mechanism touch.



[STEP 6]

Once both sides of the foot locking mechanism touch, the Trained Operator turns around, again places his feet against the sides of the Break-Apart Stretcher with their heels at the leg extension poles, provides inward lateral pressure with the heels of their feet and closes the locking mechanism.



[Scissor application of the Break-Apart Stretcher continued...]

[STEP 7]

The patient can now be immobilized to the Break-Apart Stretcher for transport.

If the patient is supine on the Break-Apart Stretcher with a potential or actual Spinal Cord Injury, place the Break-Apart Stretcher on the Ambulance stretcher with the head of the Ambulance stretcher pre-raised one notch so that there is no pressure on the spinal column.



Manufactured For:
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