

H & H Associates
Wound Seal & Chest Seal Kits
Overall Score: 4.89
<http://www.cinchtight.com>

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Maine

Design 5

Performance 5

Ease of Use 5

Size 5

Quality 5

Durability 5

Storage 4

Versatility 5

Convenience 5

Application 5

Comfort 5

Accuracy 5

Cleaning & Maintenance 5

Individual Score 4.92

After addressing any airway issues in the ABC (airway/breathing/circulation) treatment algorithm of a trauma patient, the "B" portion regarding a penetrating "sucking" chest wound is readily addressed by the H&H Associates Bolin Chest Seal (BCS) and Wound Seal products. After recognizing a penetrating chest injury, one merely needs to apply the sterile BCS onto the wound, regardless of blood, sweat, or hair. Also supplied is a sterile 4"x4" gauze sponge to clean and dry the wound area, if so desired. The BCS readily conforms to the chest area due to its flexible, gel adhesive design. The triple one-way valve design in the center ensures that one will not inadvertently convert a simple pneumothorax into a life-threatening tension pneumothorax. The Wound Seal is a sterile 6"x8" polyurethane gel adhesive seal that can be used in conjunction with the BCS, for additional wounds. The Chest Wound Kit includes both the BCS and Wound Seal, along with a 14 GA angiocath. The latter is 3.25" in length, satisfying the American College of Surgeons Advanced Trauma Life Support recommendation for relieving a tension pneumothorax. The H&H Associates Bolin Chest Seal and Wound Seal products represent the latest in penetrating chest injury field treatment. These products easily surpass the vaseline gauze, aluminum foil, and saran wrap treatment options of the past.

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Texas

Design 5

Performance 5

Ease of Use 5

Size 5

Quality 5

Durability 5
Storage 5
Versatility 5
Convenience 5
Application 5
Comfort
Accuracy
Cleaning & Maintenance
Individual Score 5

The H&H Associates Chest Wound Kit includes a Bolin Chest Seal (BCS), a Wound Seal, and a 14 gage angiocath. The BCS is a sterile polyurethane dressing with a thick gel-based adhesive backing. This gel adhesive will mold around body hair to form a tight seal, even in the presence of blood. The dressing includes three one-way valves in the center that will allow air and blood to escape while preventing the entry of unwanted gases or fluids. This design prevents a pneumothorax from becoming a tension pneumothorax, and eliminates the need to “burp” the dressing.

The Wound Seal is used in conjunction with the BCS and can be applied to exit wounds or additional chest wounds. It is composed of the same materials as the BCS, minus the one-way valves. The angiocath is included for administering a needle thoracenteses should the need arise.

I was very impressed with the effectiveness of this product. The BCS and Would Seal were easy to apply during training simulations and adhered well to the patients, even with the presence of bodily fluids and body hair. I was not able to test this product on a live subject with a penetrating chest wound; however, based on my experience and research, I believe this product to be an effect alternative to traditional chest wound care products.

I would recommend this product for utilization by both medics and operators. Because of its convenient vacuum sealed packaging, the kit is extremely compact making it perfect for medic packs and personal “blow out” kits.

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from Illinois

Design 5
Performance 4
Ease of Use 5
Size 5
Quality 5
Durability 4
Storage 5
Versatility 5
Convenience 5
Application 5
Comfort
Accuracy

Cleaning & Maintenance

Individual Score 4.8

The products for review were the H&H Wound Seal, Bolin Chest Seal, and the Chest Wound Kit. The Wound Seal and the Bolin Chest Seal were submitted as separate items for review, but both items, along with a 14 gauge 3.25” angiocath, are components of the Chest Wound Kit. So this review will focus on the Chest Wound Kit.

The Bolin Chest Seal is a one-way valve used to seal a penetrating chest wound to prevent or reduce the onset of a tension pneumothorax (complete collapse of the lung). The Bolin Chest Seal did provide an effective one-way valve, but it is difficult to review the true effectiveness of this product in a training environment. The major disadvantage of this seal is that the adhesive can be adversely affected by chest hair, sweat, blood, dirt, etc. One or more of these variables will likely be present any time this product would be used in a “real world” situation.

The Wound Seal is a petroleum based dressing used to completely seal penetrating entry and exit wounds. The product was easy to apply and worked well in a training environment especially when used in conjunction with a compression dressing.

The 14 gauge 3.25” angiocath is used to decompress the chest of air trapped in the plural space as a result of a tension pneumothorax. This product is the recommended size and length for its intended application.

The need is minimal for any of these items in an urban environment where traditional EMS assets are close by and transport times are short. However, in an austere environment where more definitive medical care is hours or days away, these items are a must. Given the convenient and compact vacuum sealed packaging of the Chest Wound Kit, I would highly recommend this kit as part of the Blow Out Kit for anyone trained to use the Chest Wound Kit components, as well as included in the aid bag of any tactical medical provider.

TESTER

Tested by a police officer from New Hampshire

Design 5

Performance 5

Ease of Use 4

Size 4

Quality 5

Durability 5

Storage 5

Versatility 5

Convenience 5

Application 5

Comfort 5

Accuracy 5

Cleaning & Maintenance

Individual Score 4.83

I was assigned the task of testing the H&H Associates wound seal & chest seal kit. Anyone that is in the tactical medicine side for a little while has heard of the H&H Company. This company has been around for a while and makes excellent products. I had the opportunity in the past to use it on a live tissue lab with the military and presently with my team and TEMS program and it worked great for the chest wounds. This is a small compact, sealed kit containing Bolin chest seal, wound seal and 14ga. Catheter for decompression. The wound seal didn't seem to stick to moist skin (diaphoretic patient) until I used continuous aggressive wiping which made it stick. This is the only chest seal that would stick very well to anyone. I was able to cut and apply this to a simulated neck injury without any problems. This is great for covering up other chest wound injuries. Bolin chest seal is also included in the kit and is made of the same material as the wound seal. These would be a perfect piece of equipment to add for any operator, civilian or operational kit. I recommend these products to NTOA members.