

The Responder

“Progress Saves Lives...”

EDITION 46

APRIL 2022

From the Editor's Desk

Greetings all and a very warm welcome to the April 2022 edition of The Responder.

Can you believe that we are only a couple of weeks away from Easter? I have been avoiding the temptation to buy Easter Eggs like the plague. My son reminds me every time we go surfing that I am looking more and more like a seal in my wetsuit. He has taken to sitting 50m away from me every time we are in the water together. His theory is that given how I look in my wetsuit, I am likely to attract sharks and he would prefer to make it back to dry land first. Nice, right? Anyways, after many such comments, let's just say he will soon be riding a plank from Builder's Warehouse 😊. That will teach him. Fancy calling me a seal?

It seems that lately, in almost every edition of the Responder, we've had to say farewell to another respected medic. I was really saddened to hear of the recent passing of Trevor Michaels, a much-loved ILS Medic from Metro EMS in Cape Town. I remember Trevor well from the BAA programme he attended while I was still the Head of the Metro EMS College. In my years at the College, we had hundreds of students graduating each year and it's funny how some students somehow just stick in your memory. Every now and then we met students that were simply 100% meant to be following a career in EMS. I remember Trevor being one of those. A softly spoken and humble fella and so very much wired for a career in EMS. So sad to lose someone who was still so young and still making a difference in the lives of others. My sincere condolences to his loved ones, friends and colleagues in EMS. I know Trevor will be missed and remembered each and every day. Rest easy Trevor.

This month has been a little crazy, with the conflict taking place in the Ukraine. Any widescale loss of innocent human life is unacceptable. I mean this in the humanitarian sense and by no means support

any political views on the issue. It has been incredible to see the support regular people have shown in facilitating the supply of critically needed medical equipment to help save innocent lives. We have received calls from all over the world, asking for assistance. We are grateful that we have been able to send a range of our trauma products to beneficiaries, who are directly involved in the provision of emergency care to civilians being injured in the conflict. We will continue to do so for as long as we can and our thoughts are with all the innocent lives that have been devastated by the conflict. It is our greatest hope that it will soon come to an end, minimising the potential for any further loss of life.

In this edition of The Responder, we'll be doing a short overview of some of the specialised trauma products we offer. It's interesting to note that a lot of these products are not as widely used in EMS in South Africa as they should be. If I think back 20 years and what we had access to for the management of penetrating chest trauma or even catastrophic haemorrhaging from a limb injury, it makes one realise just how much more choice we have available nowadays, to save so many more lives. We should be using everything at our disposal to improve patient care outcomes. Even one life lost when there is a device that could have made a difference, is one life too many.

As always, we have some great specials lined up for you, so if you are keen to save some money, click on the product link and you'll be taken to our website where you can place your order. Alternatively, you can also chat to your Be Safe Paramedical Sales Representative and they will get your order processed effortlessly.

So, with that said, I wish you happy reading!

Gavin Sutton

Editor: The Responder

Product Showcase

Trauma care is one of those facets of pre-hospital care, where immediate and sometimes aggressive management is potentially the only difference between a good or really poor patient outcome. It's a simple fact. South African Emergency Services are not pressed for choice when it comes to specialised trauma products, especially if compared to 10 years ago. Tactical tourniquets, haemostatic agents, chest wound seals and high compression trauma bandages are readily available and are being used very effectively by Emergency Services all over the world. As such, we think now is a good time to do a recap on some of the specialised trauma products we provide, all of which we believe will all add great value to your patient care.

The CritiBand™ MkII Trauma Bandage:

First aid dressings and wound pads secured by conforming bandages are great for dressing uncomplicated wounds, but they offer very little compression in larger wounds with aggressive bleeding. Many of you would have first-hand experience of this, I know I have in my 20 odd years working as a Paramedic in Cape Town. The teaching was, if it bleeds through the dressing, add another over the first, and secure with another bandage. So, 10 dressings and 10 conforming bandages later, the patient is still bleeding and you now have to deal with an enormously messy mass of blood saturated dressings...

We launched the CritiBand™ in June 2014 to solve this very challenge. For those of you who have used one, you'll know that you can really crank up the compression when applying a CritiBand™. An added advantage is that it has a sewn in wound pad, that measures 14cm x 20cm (unfolded) and is positioned 15cm from the beginning of the bandage. The wound pad is 5mm thick and has a waxy feel to its surface. The reason for this is that we wanted to reduce the rate of blood absorption through the pad. So, in essence, slow down the flow, thereby maximising the time to allow for natural clotting to take place.



The CritiBand™ has a width of 100mm, and for this reason, does not behave like a tourniquet in situations where a tourniquet is not indicated, i.e., a head wound. The CritiBand™ is also self-securing, so no need to tape the tag end off, or tear and tie one of those pesky bows that are so popular with securing conforming bandages. I am sure many of you will know what I mean?

Finally, the CritiBand™ was not designed to replace wound dressings and conforming bandages, but rather, provide a go-to bandage for high-flow, difficult to control bleeds. It's really as simple as that. Use a CritiBand™ only when you really have to. It would be superfluous to the extreme, using the CritiBand™ on wounds not aggressively bleeding. However, for those 1 in 20 wounds requiring high compression, the CritiBand™ is a game-changer.

Feel free to contact us for pricing and stock availability.

The CritiCare® Rotation Compression Tourniquet (RCT):

This is an interesting one. We sell a ton of Rotation Compression Tourniquets into the tactical medical market. We've just sent over 1000 units to Poland, from where they will be transported into the Ukraine. Interestingly, I know of only one Government Emergency Medical Service in South Africa who has purchased these in any significant volume. So, the question is, what are services using to manage uncontrollable extremity bleeds?

In the PBEC Clinical Practice Guidelines, clause 8.2.3.4 states, "We recommend adjunct tourniquet use to stop life-threatening bleeding from open extremity injuries in the pre-surgical setting." (Spahn et al., 2013) **Strong recommendation, moderate-quality of evidence.** If it is a strong recommendation, why are we not seeing more services utilise them? Is it because there is only moderate-quality evidence?

Fair enough, for many years, Tactical Tourniquets were frightfully expensive, and in some instances, still are, however there are alternatives on the market that work as well and are far more cost-effective to use. Our CritiCare® Rotation Compression Tourniquet is definitely a great option if you are looking to add Tactical Tourniquets to your kit packing lists.



As a surfer, I always keep a Rotation Compression Tourniquet attached to my surf leash (and 2 spares in my car) whenever I go into the sea. If you look at just about every shark attack victim that has survived after losing a limb, a tourniquet (usually a makeshift one, from a surf leash) was applied as soon as the victim arrived on dry land. There is very little difference between losing a limb in a shark attack versus losing a limb in a train versus pedestrian scenario, or even a gunshot or stab wound to a limb. Why are we therefore not seeing more services making Tactical Tourniquets standard in all Jump Bags and on all emergency vehicles?

Services are happy to spend close to a million Rand on a high-end ventilator, but it seems they are less excited at the idea of spending 100 bucks on a purpose-designed tourniquet. A high-end ventilator is not going to stop catastrophic bleeding from an artery, but the 100 buck tourniquet may just allow you to end up with a viable patient to place on your Million Rand ventilator. Simple logic really.

If you are keen to get your hands on our extremely effective and cost-effective CritiCare® Rotation Compression Tourniquet, get in touch with us and we'll provide you with all the relevant information.

Axiostat® Haemostatic Dressings:

This is another interesting discussion. In the PBEC Clinical Practice Guidelines section 8.1.1 General Approach to trauma patients (adapted) states:

- Establish patent airway
- Ensure adequate ventilation and oxygenation
- Control any external bleeding by applying direct pressure (including indirect pressure, topical haemostatic agents and tourniquets if indicated)
- Secure venous access – large bore cannula x 2 (If indicated),
- Rapidly identify patients requiring operative haemostasis and prioritise transport to definitive care, establish prompt contact with the major referral hospital and retrieval service.

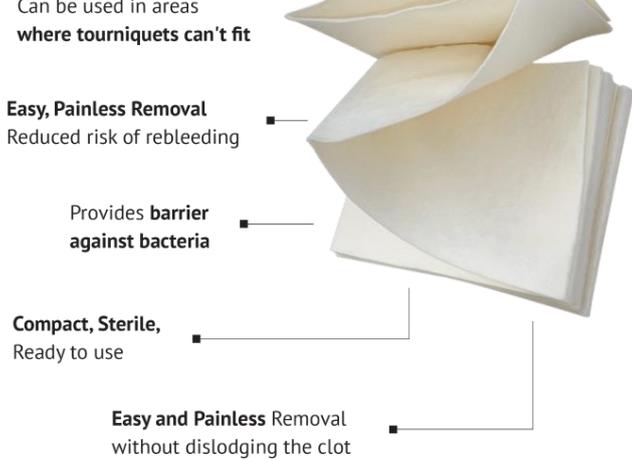
I don't believe that we have ever sold a single haemostatic dressing to an Emergency Medical Service. Yes, we have sold many to individuals working in Emergency Medical Services, but never as an endorsed device on an ambulance check list. Again, yes, it is common knowledge that haemostatic dressings are synonymously more expensive than conventional dressings, for obvious reasons, however they are also not designed to be used on conventional bleeds that can be controlled by direct pressure or with a pressure bandage. Think of a deep laceration to the groin area or to the neck and this is where haemostatic dressings, such as Axiostat®, can completely change a patient outcome.

When haemostatic dressings began appearing on the market many years ago, you could literally count the number of brands available on one hand. Having carte blanche over the market because there were so few brands to compete with, isn't the case today. Sure, some of those original brands are still pricey in South African terms, however there is so much more choice now.

Axiostat® is a 100% Chitosan Haemostatic Dressing that uses charge based Protonated Bioadhesive Technology (PBT™) to stop moderate to severe external bleeding almost instantly. It being 100% Chitosan means that all sides of the dressing actively participate in arresting an aggressive bleed.



Axiostat® is available in a wide range of options covering all bases when it comes to haemorrhage control. Besides the very popular 5x5, 5x8 and 8x8cm dressings, it is also available in rolled gauze 7.6cm x 100cm and Z-fold gauze 7.6cm x 300cm for wound packing. Axiostat® offers a 5-year shelf-life, is extremely competitively priced and is CE and FDA certified.



If you are looking to add an extremely effective haemostatic dressing range to your critical care equipment list, we believe that Axiostat® is a superb option.

As always, feel free to drop us an email for further information and pricing.

The CritiSeal™ Chest Wound Seal:

In 1990, when I began my journey in EMS, I recall us having 'purpose-designed' chest wound seals on Cape Town ambulances. It was a rather obscure looking thing. A plastic dome, with a very thin layer of adhesive (chest side) and a thin tube of plastic at the top of the dome, that acted as a one-way-valve. I never really knew where they came from or who designed them, but nevertheless, the point I am trying to make is that over 30 years ago, we used to carry dedicated chest wound seals on Metro EMS Ambulances in Cape Town. Fast forward 30 years and it is extremely unlikely that you will find a commercial chest wound seal on many ambulances in South Africa. It's an interesting thought, because 30 years ago, stab wounds and gunshot wounds to the chest were not even remotely as prevalent as they are today.

When we designed the CritiSeal™ and took it to market back in 2013, there were very few cost-effective options available on the South African market. All chest wound seals were either being imported from the US or Europe and were far too expensive to become regular use items in EMS in South Africa. Our CritiSeal™ was developed to meet this gap in the South African market and to make a purpose-designed chest wound seal more accessible to regular services.



Having spent nearly all of my Paramedic career working in the Metro EMS in Cape Town, I have always been very sensitive to the challenges faced by most government services in South Africa. Budget constraints and access to cost-effective devices, meeting efficacy requirements are some of the most common challenges. We do however believe that there is truly a place for the CritiSeal on South African emergency vehicles.

Since its launch, the biggest highlight and most meaningful result for me came in the form of an email from one of our clients. The email simply said, "Today, your critiseal saved the life of a 12-year-old boy who was stabbed in the chest", and that was all it said. Just that very short sentence meant the world to us and at that very moment, all the effort and time we put into developing the CritiSeal™ had reached the absolute pinnacle of what we hoped to achieve. Even just one life saved is the very best we could have hoped for. Of course, we know that it is impacting positively on so many more lives, but I often think about that one 12-year-old kid and in fact, I think about him whenever we are working on a new product.

If you think the CritiSeal™ has a place in your service (and it should), please feel do to get in touch with us and we'll provide you with all the relevant information.

Responder Specials

CritiCare® RescuPAC™ EMS Jump Bag
Product Code: REF:BAG.RESCUPAC.CC



R1 300.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® AmbuPAC™ EMS Jump Bag
Product Code: REF:BAG.AMBU.RED



R2 070.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® PhysioPAC Bag
Product Codes: REF:BAG.PHP.CC



R262.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® DrugPAC™ EMS Drug Bag
Product Code: REF:BAG.DRUGPAC.CC



R977.50 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® GearPAC™ Bunker Kit Bag
Product Codes: REF:BAG.GEARPAC.CC

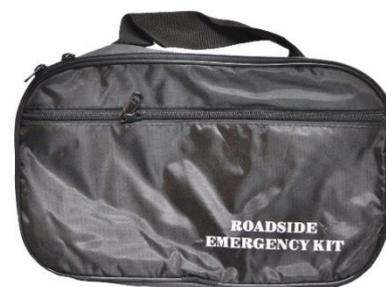


R480.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

Roadside Emergency Kit Bag (Bag Only)
Product Code: BAG.ER.S.I



R69.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® Intubation Bougie – 6Fr Size
Product Code: INTRO.BOUG.I.6FR



All for only: R80.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

C2 Finger Type Pulse Oximeter with batteries
Product Code: PO.F.C2



R200.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® Oesophageal Detection Device (ODD)
Product Code: CRITI.ODD.I



All for only: R55.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

New Product Alert
CritiCare® T65 Rechargeable Headlamp
Product Code: TOR.HEAD.LAMP.CC



All for only: R125.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

CritiCare® CritiJet™ Jet Insufflation Device
10 Pack
Product Code: REF:CRITI.J.10



All for only: R100.00 Inclusive of Vat per pack

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)

Burn-Eaz® Mini-Grabber Bag (Bag Only)
Product Code: REF:BAG.GM.BE



All for only: R180.00 Inclusive of Vat each

Offer valid until 30 April 2022 or while stocks last

[Buy Now](#)