



CED Joint Working Group

Conducted Energy Device (TASER™): Patient Factsheet

FFLM, UKAFNP, NPCC, RCEM, CoP, RCN

This guidance was produced in collaboration with UKFANP, NPCC, RCEM, College of Paramedics & the RCN

August 2021 Review prior to August 2025 - check www.fflm.ac.uk for latest updates



Advice to People Subjected to TASER™ Discharge

You have been subjected to the effects of a TASER™ Conducted Energy Device (CED). The TASER™ CED passed short pulses of electricity into your body. The electricity made your muscles contract (go stiff). You may well have lost balance and fallen to the ground. The device was used by a specially trained police officer.

During or after use of the TASER™ you may have experienced one or more of the following:

- Extreme pain and muscle spasms when the electricity was delivered
- Being dazed for several minutes afterwards
- Loss of memory of the event
- Unsteadiness and a spinning sensation
- Temporary tingling
- Weakness in the limbs
- Local aches and pains
- Tissue redness and swelling at the skin area where the TASER™ electricity was applied

These are normal effects of the TASER™ and should resolve by themselves.

While in custody you will have been clinically examined and, if necessary, treated for any injuries, including those from use of the TASER™ CED.

If any of the above symptoms (with the exception of local aches and pains and mild redness or swelling) are still present a day later, or if you develop any other health problem that was not there before the TASER™ was used, you should seek medical advice (please note, you do not always have to attend your GP or Emergency Department, you should consider services provided local minor injuries units or calling 111).

You may have two or more small marks (similar to bee stings) in your skin. These are small puncture wounds from the short needles (barbs) through which the electric current passed into your skin. These barbs will have been removed before, or while, you were in custody. There may be small burns similar to sunburn around these marks. These should return to normal in a few days. If they do not, and there is pain and swelling, you may have a local infection – you must see a doctor. If the probes only stuck in your clothing you may still have two small areas of skin underneath that look sunburned.

There are no known effects of the TASER™ electricity on the well-being of the unborn child. However, if you are pregnant and have been subjected to TASER™ discharge you should consider contacting your doctor (GP) or midwife as a precautionary measure.

This advice has been adapted from guidance produced by the CED Joint Working Party, convened by the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine with representation from the organisations listed above. The advice in this leaflet is designed to complement, and not replace, locally authorised SOPs or guidelines for the medical management of members of the public who have been subjected to TASER™ discharge and other forms of force. Where the advice given in this leaflet differs from local procedures, the local procedures should take precedence.

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