

EMS Emergency Home Hemodialysis **Disconnection Procedure for BHP's**

*****This procedure should only be performed when the patient is critical and the family member or patient who is trained to disconnect the patient is unable to.*****

1. Draw up two syringes with 10cc NS and have alcohol swabs ready.
2. **See Photograph 1.** Clamp the two lines from the dialysis machine and the two lines from the patient's fistula line (or central line). (The order that the 4 clamps are closed does not matter.)

The dialysis machine will alarm and will stop once the pressure builds up in the lines. **Note: If a fistula is in use, the paramedic should not remove the fistula needles as they would have to apply direct pressure to the puncture sites for 10-20 minutes and would be unable to provide other patient care during this time.**

3. **See Photograph 2.** Disconnect either one of the dialysis machine lines from the patient's fistula line (or central line). (The lines are attached by a Luer lock.) Then
 - a. Swab end of patient's line with alcohol.
 - b. Attach one of the saline syringes to the port of patient's line.
 - c. Open clamp on line.
 - d. Flush with 10cc NS.

***Note: If resistance is felt while flushing then re-clamp the patient line and leave syringe attached (this line then cannot be used).**

- e. Close clamp on patient's line.
 - f. Leave the syringe attached to the patient's line as this will be the sterile cap. Alternatively an IV can now be attached to use the fistula (or central line) as per CVAD protocol. Re-open the clamp only after an IV is attached.
4. **See Photograph 3.** Repeat the same procedure on the patient's second line.

5. For fistula (or central lines), tape the syringes to the arm or chest respectively for transport with mild slack in the line to allow for movement of patient.

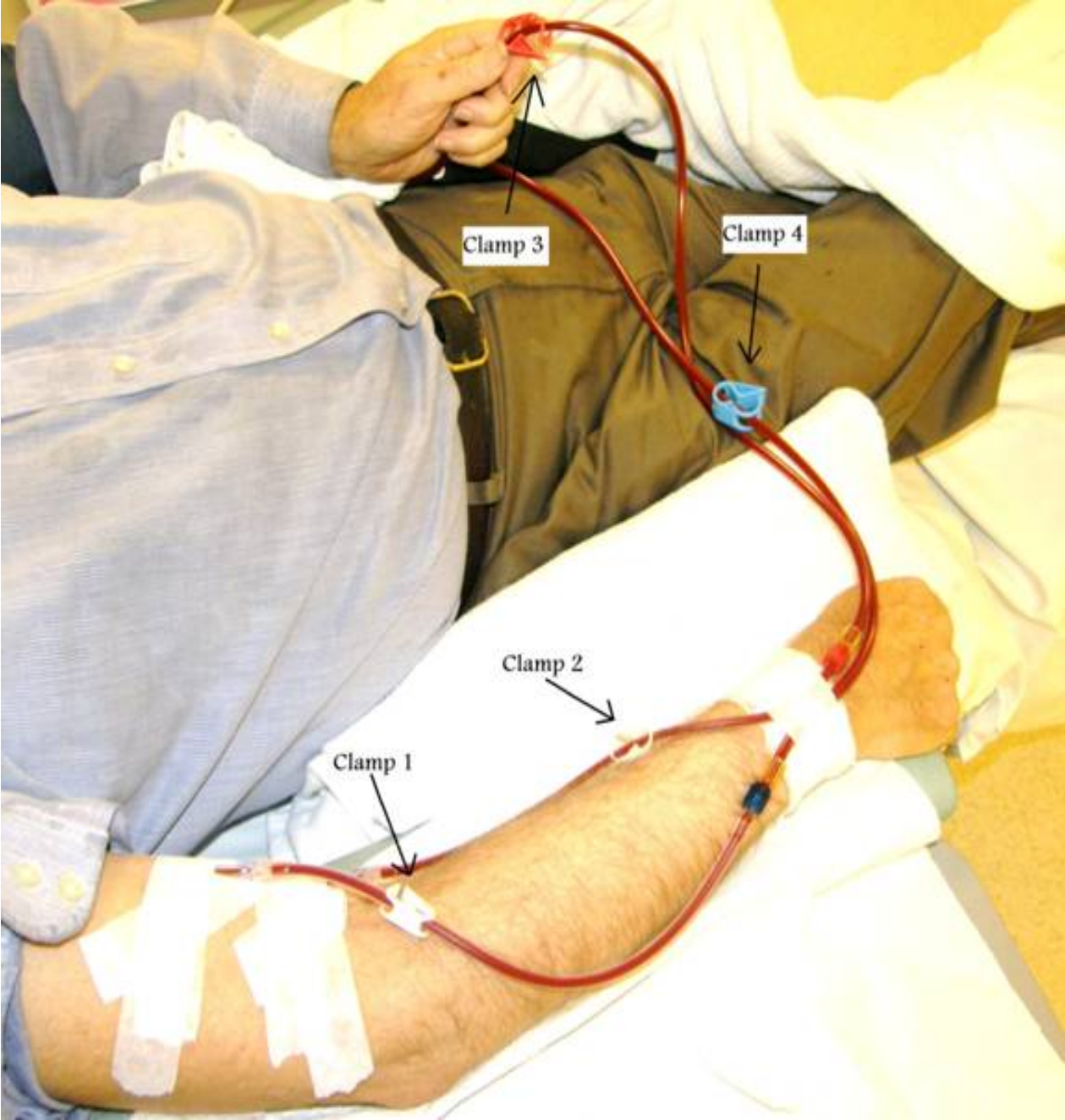
Notes:

- Approximately 1 unit of blood is retained by the dialysis machine during emergency disconnect.
- No circumferential pressure dressings should be placed around the fistula. If bleeding occurs, apply direct pressure for 10-20 minutes.

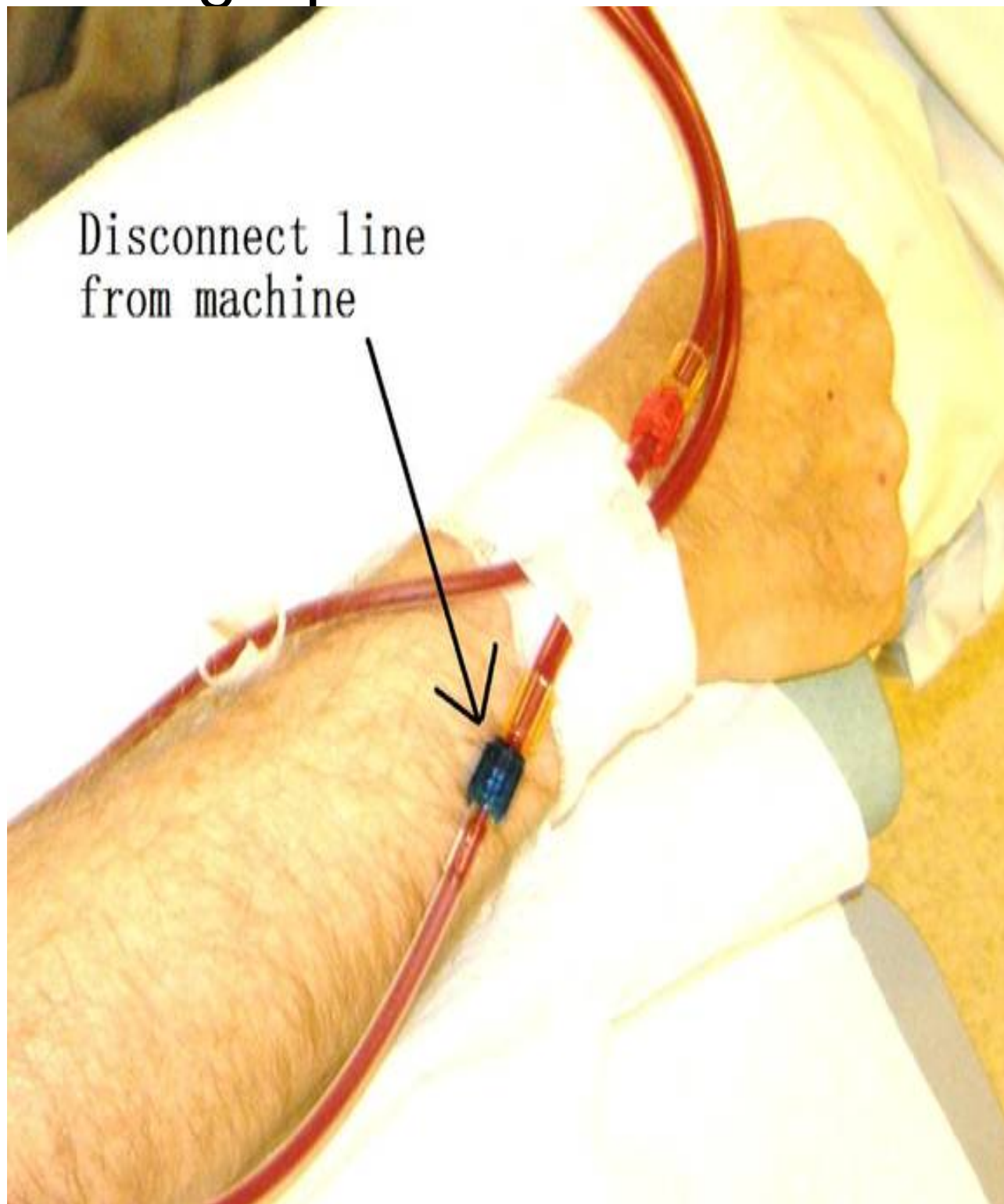
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Photograph 1



Photograph 2



Photograph 3

