



HALO

Purpose: The HALO is an orthosis that is typically used following an injury to the bones in the neck, though sometimes it is utilized for spinal operations.

Goal: Your orthotist's goal is to maintain the head and neck in a fixed position, totally immobilized until healing occurs. This helps to minimize any additional injury to the neck and spinal cord.

Use: The HALO consists of three parts: the RING or CROWN (it encircles the head and is secured to the skull with pins); the VEST (a fleece-lined plastic mold that fits around the trunk); and the SUPERSTRUCTURE (the rods and connectors connecting the ring to the vest). This is worn at all times; DO NOT attempt to make any adjustments or modifications to any part of the HALO system yourself.

Hygiene: Clean the areas around the pins at least once a day with soap and water or hydrogen peroxide; this is easiest with the help of another person. Remove crusts or scabs to allow pin site drainage. Unless advised by your physician, DO NOT use antibiotic or iodine-containing ointments. Keep the vest liner dry at all times; a hair dryer on the cool setting can be used if it gets wet. If the liner becomes dirty or odorous, contact your orthotist for a new liner to be put in.

Skin checks: If any concerns develop about the condition of your skin under the HALO, contact your orthotist. You will wear the HALO next to your skin so monitor your torso for any signs of chafing or other signs of trouble.

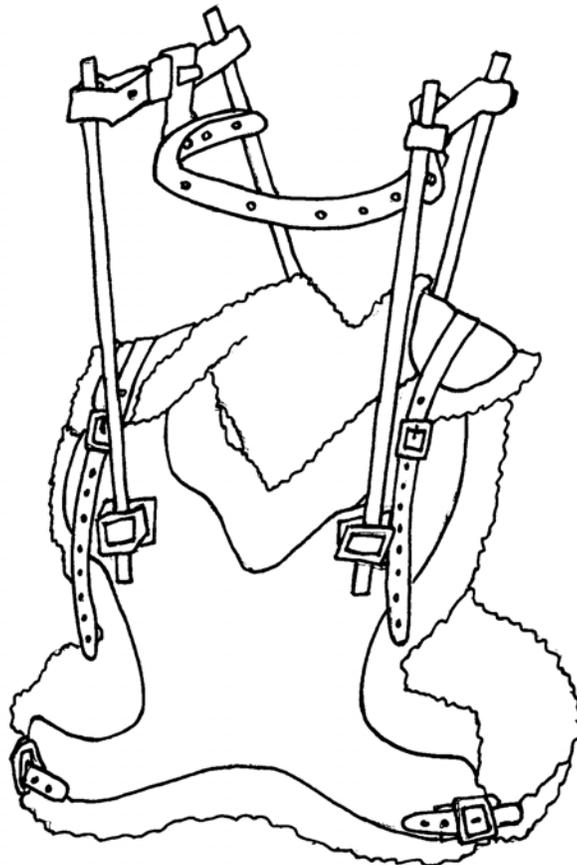
Potential Risks: With the use of a HALO, infection of the pin sites is the primary potential risk; if pin sites are painful to the touch, inflamed, bleeding, or oozing or if a pin feels loose, notify your physician immediately. The HALO must be used safely as directed in order to be successful—DO NOT modify any part of the HALO or attempt to tighten pins or screws yourself.

Potential Benefits: The proper use of the HALO system allows appropriate healing with reduced risk of additional neurologic injury.

General Health Concerns: If you have any concerns about your general health, please contact your physician for assistance; in the case of an emergency, please go to the nearest Emergency Department or call 911.

Follow-Up on Orthosis: Please hold onto and refer to the information booklet given to you by the orthotist in addition to this page. If you have any questions or concerns about the function or fit of the orthosis, please contact Northern Orthopedics for an appointment. If you are in the hospital, the staff will need to call us to come in for an adjustment. If you are not in the hospital, please call our office for an appointment.

Warranty: Northern Orthopedics will make any necessary adjustments or repairs to the device free of charge during the 90 day warranty period; the warranty may not apply if these are needed due to significant patient physiological changes. The warranty is void if anyone other than Northern Orthopedics alters the device and Northern Orthopedics will not be responsible for adjustments or repairs needed due to abuse, neglect, or normal wear and tear. **Devices cannot be returned.**



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