

Types of Casts

Casts are commonly used in the treatment of fractures to immobilize and support the injured bone, promote healing, and provide pain relief. There are several types of casts available, each with its own characteristics and applications. Here are different types of casts commonly used for fractures:

Plaster Cast:

Plaster casts, also known as traditional casts, are one of the most common types of casts. They are made from strips of plaster of Paris, which are soaked in water and then applied to the affected area. Plaster casts harden as they dry, providing stability and support to the fractured bone. These casts are durable and can accommodate swelling, making them suitable for various types of fractures.

Fiberglass Cast:

Fiberglass casts are another popular option for fracture treatment. They are constructed using fiberglass material impregnated with a polyurethane resin. Fiberglass casts are lightweight, strong, and water-resistant, allowing for greater convenience and mobility compared to plaster casts. They also come in various colors and are less likely to develop an unpleasant odor.

Waterproof Cast:

Waterproof casts are a specialized type of cast designed to allow patients to engage in water-related activities while wearing the cast. They are typically made from waterproof materials such as waterproof fiberglass or specialized waterproof liners. Waterproof casts can be used for specific fractures that require extended periods of immobilization but still allow for bathing and swimming.

Functional Cast:

Functional casts, also known as functional braces or cast-braces, are versatile casts that combine the immobilization of a traditional cast with the ability to allow limited joint movement. They are often used for fractures that require some degree of controlled movement during the healing process. Functional casts provide stability while allowing the patient to perform certain activities, such as walking or bending the joint.

Circumferential Cast:

Circumferential casts are casts that completely encircle the injured limb or body part. They are commonly used when a high level of stability and immobilization is required. Circumferential casts provide uniform support around the affected area and are often used for complex fractures or after surgical procedures.

Splint:

While not technically a cast, splints are commonly used for temporary immobilization and stabilization of fractures. Splints are typically made of rigid materials such as fiberglass, plastic, or metal and are secured to the injured limb using straps or bandages. Splints are versatile and can be adjusted easily, allowing for swelling and changes in the fracture during the initial stages of treatment.



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