

# Effectiveness of intravenous prostaglandin to reduce digital amputations from frostbite: an observational study

Iloprost has been used to treat frostbite in healthy patients



Research around its use in urban populations and people experiencing homelessness is sparse

Iloprost reduces the amputation rate in severe frostbite

Grade 2 injuries (n = 315)

NO digital amputations in either group

Grade 3 injuries (n = 244) NNT 3.7

44%  
without  
iloprost

18%  
with  
iloprost

Grade 4 injuries (n = 139) NNT 2.0

95%  
without  
iloprost

46%  
with  
iloprost

In an urban cohort, iloprost was found to be safe and effective

Iloprost for frostbite was associated with:

**NO SERIOUS  
ADVERSE EVENTS**

and only 6 mild (3 headache, 3 tachycardia)



**Take Home Message:** Implementing an iloprost pathway into Canadian urban EDs may lower the morbidity associated with frostbite injuries

Crooks et al. *CJEM*. Sept 2022

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