

First Responder's Manual of Prehospital Trauma Care

Dinesh Vyas, MD, MS, FACS

Program Director Surgery Residency, Associate Professor,
California NorthState University

Director, Institute of Global Health
Director, Center of Research and Innovation
Vice-Chair Surgery, San Joaquin General Hospital



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Illustration-in-chief

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Assistant Illustration

Gieric Laput, MD

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Contributors and Affiliations

Arpita Vyas, MD

Associate Professor (tenure Track)

Pediatrics Endocrinology, Texas Tech University

Cover Page Design

Anoushka Vyas & Bhavyajeet

Laser typeset

Rajesh Ojha

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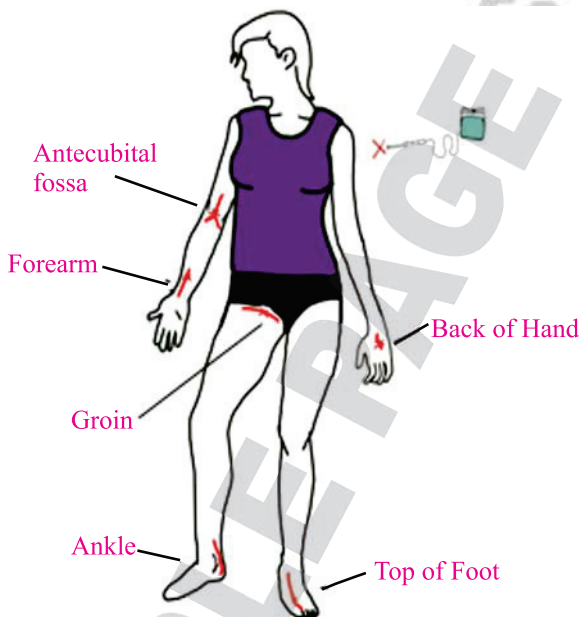


Figure 2.2. IV access sites

Short-length, **large-diameter** catheters allow for faster rates of fluid administration **than** do longer, narrower catheters, therefore, the largest available catheter (14 – 16 gauge) should be used.

IV Line Preparation

1. First, **orient** yourself with the components of the IV line. **Close** roller clamp (Fig. 3.3a) of the IV line to prevent **fluid from** dripping out once the tubing is attached to the IV fluid bag. By moving the roller in the direction of the arrow, the tube becomes clamped and fluid will not flow beyond that point. By moving it in the opposite direction it allows for fluid flow.

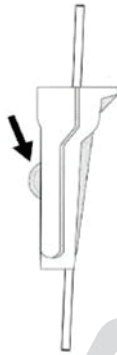
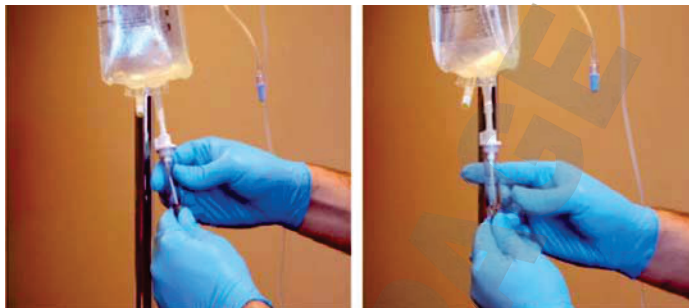


Figure 2.3a Roller Clamp

2. Insert spiked end of IV tubing into the tube coming from the upside down IV bag.
3. Hold bag upright with the IV line hanging from bottom



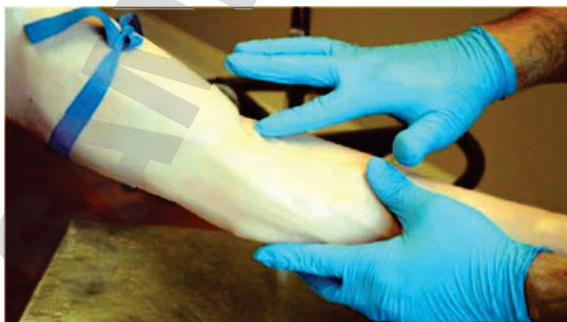
4. Fill drip chamber halfway by pinching and releasing.



5. Now, open the roller **cl**amp to allow fluid to fill the IV lineup to the very end of the **t**ube, making sure that no air bubbles remain within the tubing.
6. Close the roller **cl**amp again until you are ready to attach the tubing to the **c**atheter, which will be done after the catheter is securely placed **i**nto the patient's vein.

IV Line Placement

1. Wear gloves
2. Place **t**ourniquet above (closer to body) IV site.
3. Find vein

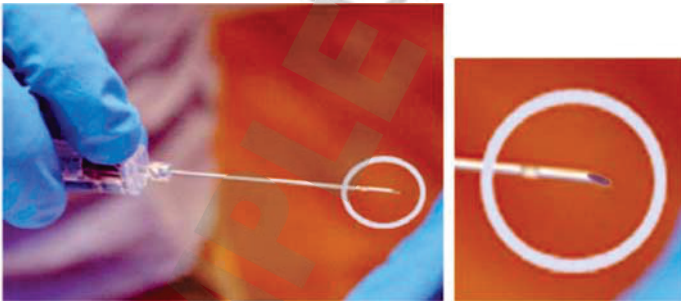


Note: The vein can be better visualized by using light and placing it at an angle. Having the patient make a fist also helps as well.

4. Sterilize site of access by using an alcohol swab



5. Ensure that the bevel (the opening on the angled, sharp end of the needle) is facing upward



6. Use the hand not holding the needle to support the underside of the patient's arm and to pull the skin tight across the vein.
7. Advance the needle and catheter using an upward angle and reduce angle gradually as you penetrate the skin.

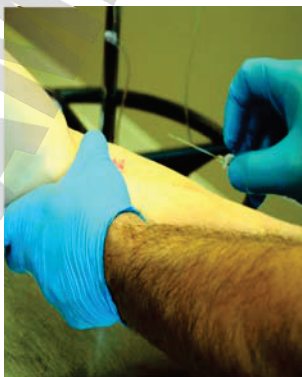


Note: Do not go slowly when penetrating the skin, as it can cause pain and push the vein out of the way, causing it to be missed.

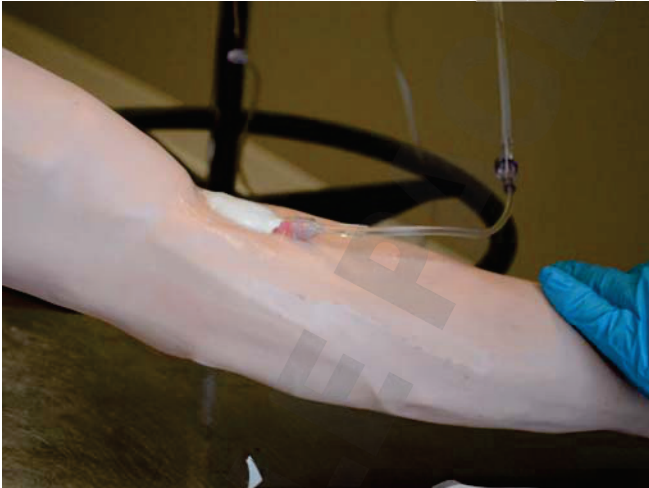
8. Once blood begins to fill the flashback chamber, advance needle 2 millimeters further.
9. Gradually advance catheter into vein until completely inserted, while keeping the needle from being inserted along with the catheter.



10. As you remove the needle from the catheter, apply pressure over the vein above where the catheter is located, to keep blood from leaking out of the catheter.



11. Dispose of the needle in an appropriate container.
12. Remove the tourniquet and quickly, attach the tubing to the catheter, using tape to secure them in place.



13. Release the **roller clamp** on the IV tubing and set an adequate flow rate.

Note: Have the **tubing and tape** ready. Once the tourniquet is released, blood **may begin to flow** from the catheter even while you are holding pressure **over the** vein.

Note: Try to **place the** tape over the catheter only, avoiding the tube connector, **so that** the tube may be easily removed and replaced.

Additional Points

- Always use gloves
- Make every effort to avoid a needle stick injury
- Needles must always be capped when not in use
- Never reuse needles
- Protect the insertion site from contamination