

CHEST DECOMPRESSION

1. Level: Paramedic, RN
2. Indication: Suspected tension pneumothorax.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Midclavicular Line
 - 3.1.1. Take appropriate infection precautions (use PPEs).
 - 3.1.2. Gather and assemble necessary equipment: 14 gauge (adults) or 18 gauge (pediatric) over-the-needle catheter, the finger from an examination glove, and alcohol preps.
 - 3.1.3. Locate the second intercostal space, mid-clavicular line of the affected side (absent breath sounds).
 - 3.1.4. Cleanse the area with alcohol prep.
 - 3.1.5. Construct a flutter valve with the examination glove finger and attach it to the hub of the 14 gauge over-the-needle catheter.
 - 3.1.6. Insert the 14 gauge catheter sliding it over the top curve of the third rib through the chest wall (90° angle) until air escapes.
 - 3.1.7. Remove the needle from the catheter and secure the catheter to the chest wall with tape.
 - 3.1.8. Dispose of the needle in an appropriate container.
 - 3.2. Anterior Axillary Line / Mid Axillary Line
 - 3.2.1. Take appropriate infection precautions (use PPEs).
 - 3.2.2. Gather and assemble necessary equipment: 14 gauge (adults) or 18 gauge (pediatric) over-the-needle catheter, the finger from an examination glove, and alcohol preps.
 - 3.2.3. Locate the fifth intercostal space, anterior axillary line or mid axillary line of the affected side (absent breath sounds).
 - 3.2.4. Cleanse the area with alcohol prep.
 - 3.2.5. Construct a flutter valve with the examination glove finger and attach it to the hub of the 14 gauge over-the-needle catheter.
 - 3.2.6. Insert the 14 gauge catheter sliding it over the top curve of the sixth rib through the chest wall (90° angle) until air escapes.
 - 3.2.7. Remove the needle from the catheter and secure the catheter to the chest wall with tape.
 - 3.2.8. Dispose of the needle in an appropriate container.