

INTRAVENOUS ACCESS – EXTERNAL JUGULAR

1. Level: Paramedic, RN
2. Clinical Indications:
 - 2.1. External jugular vein cannulation is indicated in a critically ill patient ≥ 8 years of age who requires intravenous access for fluid or medication administration and in whom an extremity vein is not obtainable.
 - 2.2. External jugular cannulation can be attempted initially in life threatening events where no obvious peripheral site is noted.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Place the patient in a supine head down position. This helps distend the vein and prevents air embolism.
 - 3.2. Turn the patient's head toward the opposite side if no risk of cervical injury exists.
 - 3.3. Prep the site as per peripheral IV site.
 - 3.4. Align the catheter with the vein and aim toward the same side shoulder.
 - 3.5. "Tourniqueting" the vein lightly with one finger above the clavicle, puncture the vein midway between the angle of the jaw and the clavicle and cannulate the vein in the usual method.
 - 3.6. Dispose of sharps appropriately.
 - 3.7. Attach the IV and secure the catheter avoiding circumferential dressing or taping.
 - 3.8. Document the procedure, time, and result (success) on the electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR).