



GLOBAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL REGISTRY

Pericardiocentesis (Ultrasound Method) Skill Documentation Form

Student: _____ Examiner: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

PASS _____ FAIL _____

Task:	Correct	Incorrect
Recognizes patient with cardiac tamponade in a state of physiologic exhaustion or near death. Performs Airway assessment (LEMON and Trauma ABCS), ventilatory assessment, circulatory assessment		
Take measures to sustain SpO2 above 95%, avoid positive pressure ventilation if possible, until cardiac effusion resolved. • Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV) and/or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) will likely result in dramatic decrease in cardiac output from decreased preload. (- 1 point for unnecessary use)		
Discuss indications for pericardiocentesis (hemodynamic instability not stabilized with IVF)		
Confirm Cardiac Tamponade with Ultrasound (i.e.: Right atrium collapses in systole, Right ventricle collapses in diastole, Vena cava dilated without respiratory variation in size, or myocardium is surrounded by fluid)		
Obtain and assemble appropriate equipment: 2, 60mL syringes; 16 or 18 gauge needle 5 inches (12 cm in length), 3 way stopcock • Places 3 way stopcock on needle and syringe on stopcock		
Cleanse site prior to needle insertion		
Assures Patient is on ECG, SpO2, PEtCO2, and Position Ultrasound in sub-xiphoid position		
Determine insertion site of needle (1-2cm inferior to the left of xiphoid process)		
Insert the needle at a 45 degree angle, advancing slowly toward the left shoulder, while holding negative pressure on the syringe.		
Watch the needle enter the largest pocket of fluid via US and document with images if possible and retain ultrasound in place		
Watch ECG for ectopy and arrhythmias, if ectopy begins, withdraw from position where noted.		
Aspirate as much fluid as possible, turn off stopcock replace syringe		
Reassess patient		
Verbalizes possible complications of pericardiocentesis (Laceration/damage to myocardium, death, etc....)		
TOTAL:		

Note: any "incorrect" represents a skill failure



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Critical Failure Criteria	
	Failure to utilize sterile technique
	Failure to perform any BOLDED step
	Handling any instrument in a dangerous manner
	Failure to maintain view on ultrasound
	Uses inappropriate affect with patient or examiner
	Uses or orders a dangerous or inappropriate intervention

NOTE: You must factually document any “incorrect” or critical failure criteria on back of this form