

## Placement of an Arterial Line



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## Procedure (Video)

## Arterial Line Sites

- Radial
  - Left is preferred site
  - Collateral circulation, easy to maintain and access
- Femoral
  - Easier to cannulate but anatomy not consistent, poorer access
- Brachial
  - Less access, sole supply for forearm and hand
- Dorsalis pedis
  - Smaller vessel, less access
- Axillary
  - Hard to access, sole supply for arm and hand

## Personal Comments

- "Line insertion should be performed..."
  - When you are comfortable and not rushed
  - When you are fully prepared
    - all required supplies at the ready, and with the right equipment
  - Slow, but with deliberate confidence
    - No jabbing or jerky movements
    - Withdraw needle fully before attempting another angle

## Summary

- DO NOT perform until brain dead is established and confirmed
- Allen's test is to assess adequacy of collateral blood supply (not required in our situation)
- Correct ARTERIAL catheter
  - Adult size: 18 to 20
  - Pediatric size: 20-24
- Use sterile technique
  - Prep with Chlorhexidine (iodine if unavailable)
- Insertion angle: 30-60 degrees
- Complications:
  - Vascular spasm
  - Thrombosis
  - Infection
  - Bleeding

## Next Steps

- Post test
- Split into groups for mannequin practice

