

## ALS Procedure Guidelines



# Lincoln Fire & Rescue Emergency Medical Services ALS Procedure Guidelines

Last Edit January, 2018

Changes highlighted in Yellow

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### ALS Procedure Guidelines Table of Contents

#### **PROCEDURES:**

12-LEAD ECG .....	3
CO AND SpCO MEASUREMENT .....	6
ETCO2 DETECTION / MONITORING – CAPNOGRAPHY.....	7
CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP) PROTOCOL .....	9
<b>I-GEL INSERTION PROTOCOL</b> .....	11
CRICOTHYROTOMY – NEEDLE .....	14
CRICOTHYROTOMY – SURGICAL .....	16
DEFIBRILLATION – MANUAL .....	19
DUODOTE™ AUTO-INJECTOR & CANA INJECTOR .....	20
ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE INTRODUCER (BOUGIE) or (POCKET BOUGIE).....	25
INTRAOSSUEOUS INSERTION – EZ-IO® .....	29
INTRAOSSUEOUS INSERTION – JAMSHIDI STYLE.....	35
ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION .....	37
PREEXISTING VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICE – DIALYSIS PATIENT .....	41
SUCTIONING – TRACHEOBRONCHIAL .....	43
SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION .....	44
THORACENTESIS – NEEDLE .....	46
TRANSCUTANEOUS CARDIAC PACING .....	48
VEIN CANNULATION – EXTERNAL JUGULAR .....	50
VEIN CANNULATION – PERIPHERAL.....	51

**Last edited** January 2018

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### 12-LEAD ECG

#### INDICATIONS:

1. Chest pain
2. Epigastric pain
3. Back, neck, jaw or arm pain without chest pain
4. Palpitations
5. Pulmonary edema
6. Exertional dyspnea
7. Weakness and diaphoresis unexplained by ambient temperature
8. Feeling of impending doom or unexplained anxiety
9. Suspected diabetic ketoacidosis
10. Suspected cardiac events
11. Cardiac dysrhythmias
12. Syncope or near syncope of unknown etiology or in patients greater than 65 years old
13. Post cardiac arrest

#### PRECAUTIONS:

1. Treatment of lethal dysrhythmias (e.g., VF, pulseless VT) and life-threatening problems associated with airway, breathing, and circulation should be initiated prior to obtaining a 12-lead ECG.

#### PRODEDURE:

1. Prepare all of the equipment and ensure the cable is in good repair. Check to make sure there are adequate leads and materials for prepping the skin.
2. Prep the skin. Dirt, oil, sweat and other materials on the skin can interfere with obtaining a quality tracing.
3. Place the four limb leads in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Limb lead electrodes are typically placed on the wrists and ankles as shown in Figure 1. The limb lead electrodes can be placed anywhere along the limbs. Do not place the limb lead electrodes on the torso when acquiring a 12-lead ECG.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

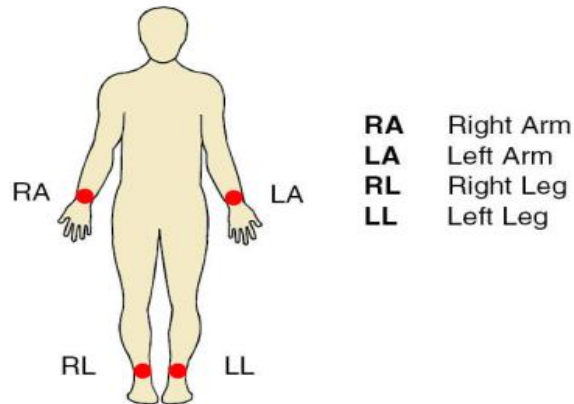
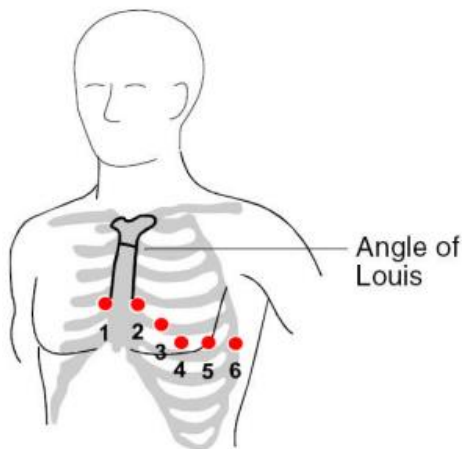


Figure 1 – Limb lead electrode placement

4. Place the precordial leads in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Precordial leads are typically placed as shown in Figure 2. Proper lead placement is important for accurate diagnosis.



Lead	Lead Location
V1	Fourth intercostal space to the right of the sternum
V2	Fourth intercostal space to the left of the sternum
V3	Directly between leads V2 and V4
V4	Fifth intercostal space at mid-clavicular line
V5	Level with V4 at left anterior auxiliary line
V6	Level with V5 at left midaxillary line

Figure 2. – Precordial lead electrode placement

- a. Locating the V1 position (fourth intercostal space) is critically important because it is the reference point for locating the placement of the remaining V leads. To locate the V1 position:
  - i. Place your finger at the notch in the top of the sternum.
  - ii. Move your finger slowly downward about 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) until you feel a slight horizontal ridge or elevation. This is the Angle of Louis where the manubrium joins the body of the sternum.
  - iii. Locate the second intercostal space on the patient's right side, lateral to and just below the Angle of Louis.
  - iv. Move your finger down two more intercostal spaces to the fourth intercostal space, this is the V1 position.
  - v. Place V1 by attaching the positive electrode to the identified location.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

- b. Place V2 by attaching the positive electrode to the left of the sternum at the fourth intercostal space.
- c. Place V4 by attaching the positive electrode at the mid-clavicular line at the fifth intercostal space (Note: V4 must be placed prior to V3).
- d. Place V3 by attaching the positive electrode in the line midway between lead V2 and V4.
- e. Place V5 by attaching the positive electrode at the anterior axillary line at the same level as V4.
- f. Place V6 by attaching the positive electrode to the midaxillary line at the same level as V4.

**CAUTION:** When placing electrodes on female patients, always place leads V3-V6 under the breast rather than on the breast.

**CAUTION:** Never use the nipples as reference points for locating the electrodes for male or female patients, because nipple locations may vary widely.

5. Ensure that all leads are attached.
6. Activate 12-lead function.
7. Record the tracing.
8. Select the appropriate facility and transmit the 12-lead
  - a. Select the hospital radio channel on mobile or hand held radio and monitor the channel in the event the base physician needs to contact you for additional information.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Perform the 12-lead ECG within five (5) minutes or as soon as possible.
2. If the patient's clinical condition changes, acquire an additional 12-lead ECG.
3. If a patient refuses or if you are transporting to Bryan West Campus consider transmitting the 12 lead to a receiving hospital for a base physician over read.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# CO AND SpCO MEASUREMENT

### INDICATIONS:

1. Multiple patients presenting with symptoms
2. Headache, dizziness, syncope, weakness, altered mental status, and/or lethargy.
3. Nausea, vomiting, and/or abdominal complaints.
4. Any ill or injured patient with vague complaints.
5. Shortness of breath, chest pain
6. CO detector(s) alarming
7. Extended time on or near fire-ground.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Apply finger probe on patient. Consider covering probe with towel.
2. Initial CO assessment parameters.
  - a. 0-5% - Considered normal in non-smokers. When >3% with symptoms, consider high flow oxygen and evaluate environment for CO sources. Consider measuring others in same room/office/vehicle as patient. In absence of symptoms, no further medical evaluation of SpCO needed.
  - b. 5-10% - Considered normal in smokers, abnormal in non-smokers. If symptoms present, consider high flow oxygen and inquire if others are ill. Evaluate environment for CO sources.
  - c. 10-15% - Abnormal in any patient. Assess for high flow oxygen. Evaluate environment for CO sources.
  - d. >15% - Significantly abnormal in any patient. Administer high flow oxygen, assess for symptoms, and consider transport. Evaluate environment for CO sources.
  - e. >30% - Transport immediately. Administer high flow oxygen. Patient will likely be transferred to hyperbaric facility. Evaluate environment for CO sources.
3. CO reassessment parameters
  - a. 0-5% - If symptoms, persist, recommend transport regardless of SpCO readings. If symptoms resolved, no further medical evaluation of SpCO needed.
  - b. 5-10% - If symptoms persist, recommend transport regardless of SpCO readings. If symptoms resolve and SpCO remains >5% in any patient, recommend further medical evaluation. Non-smokers should be encouraged to have their home/work environment evaluated for CO.
  - c. 10-15% - If symptoms persist or SpCO remains >10 % in any patient, recommend transport. Encourage patient to have their home/work environment evaluated for CO.
  - d. >15% - Recommend transport regardless of symptoms. Ensure that others in the patient's home or workplace are not ill.
  - e. >30% - Transport immediately. Administer high flow oxygen. Patient will likely be transferred to hyperbaric facility. Evaluate environment for CO sources.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### ETCO<sub>2</sub> DETECTION / MONITORING – CAPNOGRAPHY

#### INDICATIONS:

1. Used for confirmation, monitoring and documentation of endotracheal intubation or I-gel placement.
2. Assessment, monitoring and documentation of the respiratory status of the non-intubated patient experiencing respiratory distress including but not limited to asthma and COPD.
3. Confirmation, monitoring and documentation of ROSC during CPR.

#### PROCEDURE: – INTUBATED PATIENTS

1. Confirm tube placement via physical exam as outlined in the INTUBATION, ENDOTRACHEAL PROCEDURE: guideline.
2. After verifying proper tube placement, apply the capnography circuit and use according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Secure the endotracheal tube and resume ventilations at the appropriate rate. Do not use continuous hyperventilation.
4. Observe the waveform and numerical values that appear during exhalation.
5. ETCO<sub>2</sub> numerical values and corresponding capnograph should be compared to normal values and morphology (Figure 3.).

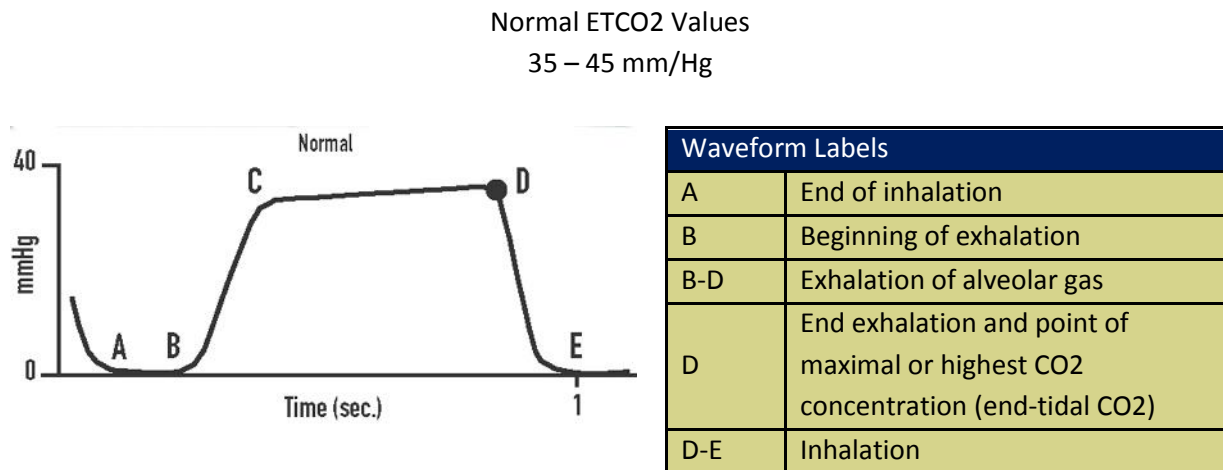


Figure 3

#### PROCEDURE: – NON-INTUBATED PATIENTS

1. Patients should be assessed, oxygenated and ventilated with the appropriate delivery device dependent upon their presenting degree of respiratory distress or obstruction.
2. Interface the end-tidal CO<sub>2</sub> sampling device with the oxygen delivery device being used (i.e., nasal sampling device used under a non-rebreather mask).
3. Observe for a waveform and numerical values to appear during exhalation.

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

4. ETCO<sub>2</sub> numerical values and corresponding capnograph should be compared to normal values and morphology (Figure 3).
  - a. **NOTE:** ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring should be discontinued while administering nebulized medications.
5. ETCO<sub>2</sub> numerical values and capnograph should be monitored following medication administration to determine the patient's response to the intervention and the need for additional intervention.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Capnography is only an adjunct to careful patient assessment.
2. Do not use capnography as the sole method of assessing correct tube placement, especially in the pulseless patient.
3. Capnography may not indicate right mainstem bronchus intubation or pyriform placement.



## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

# **CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE (CPAP) PROTOCOL**

Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) has been shown to rapidly improve vital signs and gas exchange; reduce the work of breathing, decrease the sense of dyspnea and decrease the need for endotracheal intubation in patients who suffer from shortness of breath secondary to asthma, COPD, pulmonary edema and CHF. In patients with CHF, CPAP improves hemodynamics by reducing left ventricular preload and afterload.

### **INDICATIONS:**

1. Any patient who is in respiratory distress with signs and symptoms consistent with asthma, COPD, pulmonary edema or CHF, and who is:
  - a. Awake and able to follow commands.
  - b. Is over 18 years old and is able to fit the CPAP mask.
  - c. Has the ability to maintain an open airway.
  - d. AND exhibits two or more of the following:
    - i. A respiratory rate greater than 25 breaths per minute.
    - ii. SPO<sub>2</sub> of less than 94% at any time.
    - iii. Use of accessory muscles during respirations.

### **CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

1. Patient is in respiratory arrest/apneic.
2. Patient is suspected of having a pneumothorax or has suffered trauma to the chest.
3. Patient has a tracheostomy.
4. Patient is actively vomiting or has upper GI bleeding.
5. Patient systolic blood pressure is less than 90 mmHg.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Explain the procedure to the patient.
2. Ensure adequate oxygen supply to ventilation device.
3. Initiate continuous SPO<sub>2</sub> and ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring.
4. Place the patient on cardiac monitor and record rhythm strips with vital signs.
5. Place the delivery device over the mouth and nose.
6. Secure the mask with provided straps.
7. Set PEEP valve to 5 cmH<sub>2</sub>o initially, may titrate to max of 10 cmH<sub>2</sub>o.
8. Check for air leaks.
9. Monitor and document the patient's respiratory response to treatment.
10. Check and document vital signs every 5 minutes.
11. Administer appropriate medication as needed. (continuous nebulized Albuterol for COPD/Asthma and repeated administration of nitroglycerin spray for CHF)

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

12. Continue to coach patient to keep mask in place and readjust as needed.
13. Advise receiving facility that CPAP has been initiated.
14. If respiratory status deteriorates, remove device and consider positive pressure ventilation via BVM and/or placement of non-visualized airway or endotracheal intubation.

### **REMOVAL PROCEDURE:**

1. CPAP therapy needs to be continuous and should not be removed unless the patient can't tolerate the mask or experiences respiratory arrest or begins to vomit.
2. If the patient is removed from CPAP therapy, consider positive pressure ventilation with a Bag-Valve-Mask, the placement of a non-visualized airway and/or endotracheal intubation.

### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

1. Do not remove CPAP until directed by hospital staff or physician.
2. Watch patient for gastric distention, which can result in vomiting.
3. Procedure may be performed on patient with a "**Do Not Resuscitate Order**".
4. Due to changes in preload and afterload of the heart during CPAP therapy, a complete set of vital signs must be obtained every 5 minutes.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### I-GEL INSERTION PROTOCOL

Non-visualized supraglottic airway placement to establish control of the patient's airway may be performed by a Lincoln system certified paramedic, paramedic intern under the direct supervision of a Lincoln system certified paramedic and all BLS providers.

#### Indications:

- a. Adult (showing signs of puberty) cardiac arrest patient
- b. Apneic patient when endotracheal intubation is not possible or not available.
- c. Patient must be **unconscious, without a gag reflex**
- d. Failed airway

#### Contraindications - Precautions:

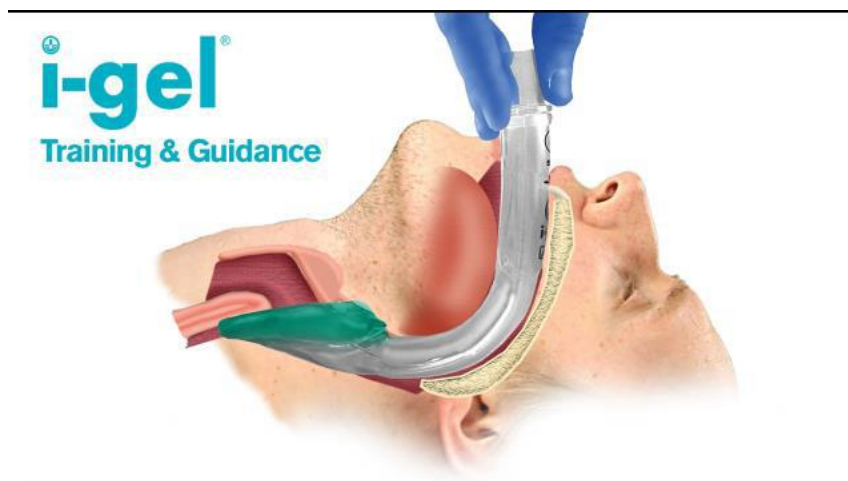
- e. History of esophageal foreign body, disease or caustic ingestion
- f. Obstructive lesions below the glottis
- g. Trismus, limited mouth opening, pharyngo-perilaryngeal abscess, trauma or mass
- h. Stoma
- i. Conscious or semi-conscious patients with an intact gag reflex
- j. Do not use excessive force to insert the device.
- k. As with all supraglottic airway devices, particular care should be taken with patients who have fragile and vulnerable dental work, in accordance with recognized airway management.
- l. Use care to avoid the introduction of lubricant in or near the ventilatory openings

I-gel Size	Patient Criteria	Patient Size	Patient weight
3	4-5 foot (122-155 CM)	Small adult	30-60 kg
4	5-6 foot (155-180 CM)	Medium adult	50-90 kg
5	6 foot (> 180 CM)	Large adult	90+ kg

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### Procedure:

- m. Take and maintain appropriate body substance isolation precautions including eye protection.
- n. Determine and select appropriate airway for size of patient.
- o. Lubricate per the manufacturers recommendations
- p. Grasp the lubricated I-gel firmly along the integral bite block (tube portion of the device). Position the device so that the I-gel cuff outlet is facing toward the chin of the patient.
  - i. NOTE: be sure that there is only a thin layer of lubricant on the end of the I-gel to avoid blowing it into the lungs with bagging
  - ii. Suction the upper airway PRIOR to insertion as needed
- q. The patient should be in the “sniffing” position, with head extended and neck slightly flexed forward. **If cervical injury is suspected, use modified “jaw thrust” instead of any flexion at the neck.** The chin should be gently pressed down/inferior before proceeding to insert the I-gel.
- r. Introduce the leading soft tip into the mouth of the patient in a direction toward the hard palate.
- s. Glide the device downwards and backwards along the hard palate with a continuous, but gentle push until a definitive resistance is felt.
- t. **WARNING:** Do not apply excessive force to the device during insertion. It is not necessary to insert your fingers or thumbs into the oral cavity of the patient during insertion of this device. If there is resistance during insertion, a ‘jaw thrust’ and slight rotation of the device is recommended.
- u. At this point, the tip of the device should be located into the upper esophageal opening and the cuff should be located against the laryngeal framework. The incisors should be resting on the integral bite block.



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### Post Placement:

- v. Auscultate breath sounds, check for chest rise and confirm placement with ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring and SpO<sub>2</sub> monitoring as allowed by protocol.
  - i. Attach pulse oximeter probe and ETCO<sub>2</sub> circuit
  - ii. ETCO<sub>2</sub> monitoring.
    - 1. Head injuries: 30-35 mmHg
    - 2. All other patients should be between 35-40 mmHg
- w. Secure the tube per manufacturer's instructions
- x. Place suction catheter in side port and advance to appropriate position, apply suction to decompress the stomach.
- y. Continue to monitor, sedate per protocol as necessary **(ALS Procedure)**
- z. Consider definitive airway placement, if possible and necessary. **(ALS Procedure)**
  - i. Endotracheal tube placement
  - ii. You can intubate through the I-gel tub with a Bougie introducer.

### Indications for I-gel removal:

- aa. Patient regains consciousness. (Consider sedation and/or paralytics **{ALS Procedure}** if authorized)
- bb. Protective gag reflex returns. (Consider sedation and/or paralytics **{ALS Procedure}** if authorized)
- cc. Ventilation is inadequate.
- dd. Improperly placed I-gel airway.

### Removal:

- ee. Ensure suctioning equipment is ready, roll patient onto left side
- ff. Carefully remove I-gel airway with gentle, but firm traction. Suction as needed.
- gg. Insert an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal adjunct, as needed.
- hh. Continue ventilations with a BVM at 10-15 LPM flow, as needed or place on non-rebreather mask at 15 LPM
- ii. Document time of removal and ongoing vitals

### Key Points

- jj. This is NOT a definitive airway and aspiration can occur with this device.
- kk. Preload the OG port with a 12 French suction catheter to prevent any fluid leakage from this hole during insertion.
- ll. Apply a small amount of lubricating gel to the tip of the I-gel to aid in insertion, but do not over lubricate!
- mm. Do not leave in place for >4 hours

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### CRICOTHYROTOMY – NEEDLE

#### INDICATION:

1. To establish emergency airway access on patients less than 8 years old when other conventional means of securing an airway fail due to trauma or airway obstruction.
2. This is a last resort maneuver for securing an airway.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Age greater than 8 years.
2. Ability to ventilate the patient and maintain the airway by other means.
3. Ability to intubate the trachea with an endotracheal tube.
4. Inability to identify the cricothyroid membrane.

#### PRECAUTIONS:

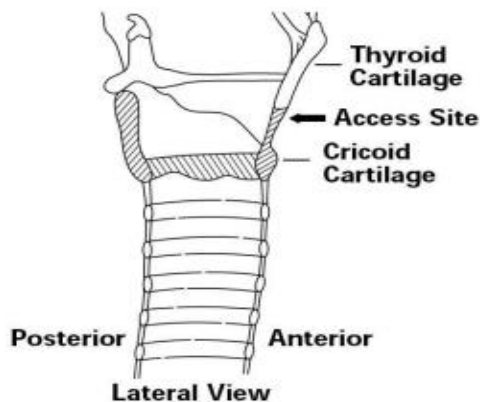
1. Patients with airway injuries may have significant spinal injuries. Whenever possible, the cervical spine should be immobilized before beginning the procedure. Care should always be exercised to avoid additional spinal injuries.
2. Whenever possible and appropriate, utilize aseptic technique for the procedure.

#### NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

1. 14 G, 1.25" long IV needle-over-catheter
2. 3, 5, or 10 mL syringe
3. Alcohol wipes
4. Twill tape
5. 15 mm adapter off a 3.0 mm ET tube
6. BVM with high flow O<sub>2</sub> source

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Identify the clinical indications for needle cricothyrotomy.
2. Place patient in supine position.
3. Palpate cricothyroid membrane between thyroid cartilage and cricoid cartilage (figure 4).
4. Cleanse area well with alcohol swabs.
5. Attach 14 G over-the-needle catheter to the syringe.
6. Puncture skin mid-line and directly over the cricothyroid membrane.



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

Figure 4

7. Direct needle caudally at 45-degree angle. (Figure 5).
8. Advance needle through lower half of cricothyroid membrane, aspirating as needle is advanced.
9. Aspiration of air identifies position is tracheal lumen.
10. Remove needle and gently advance catheter.
11. Attach catheter needle hub to #3.0 mm pediatric ETT adapter.
12. Connect ETT adapter to Bag Valve.
13. Confirm position by auscultation and visualization of lung inflation.
14. Secure apparatus to neck with twill tape.
15. Document the procedure and the patient's response.

### COMPLICATIONS:

1. Asphyxia.
2. Subcutaneous or mediastinal emphysema or bleeding.
3. Hematemesis.
4. Vocal cord damage.
5. Esophageal or thyroid perforation.
6. Posterior tracheal wall perforation.
7. Inadequate ventilation.
8. Hypercapnia/Hypercarbia

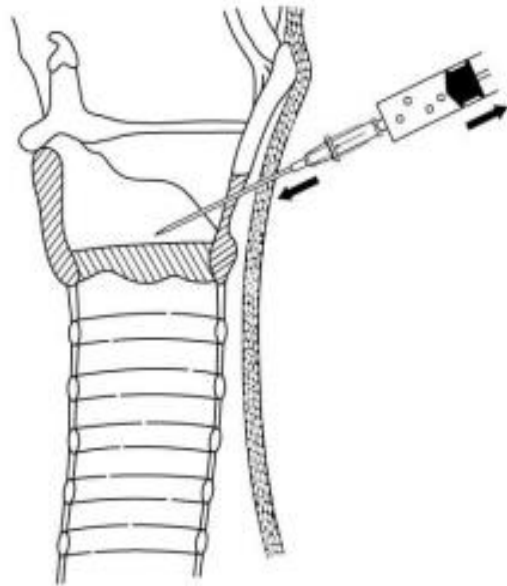


Figure 5

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# CRICOTHYROTOMY – SURGICAL

### INDICATION:

Establish emergency airway access on patients that are 8 years old or older when other conventional means of securing an airway fail due to trauma or airway obstruction. **This is a last resort maneuver for securing an airway.**

### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Ability to intubate the trachea.
2. Ability to ventilate the patient and maintain the airway by other means.
3. Inability to identify the cricothyroid membrane

### PRECAUTIONS:

1. Suspected laryngeal fractures.
2. Bleeding disorders

### NECESSARY EQUIPMENT:

1. 6.0 Endotracheal Tube (may utilize other sizes if indicated by patient size or condition).
2. #15 Scalpel blade
3. Bougie
4. 10mL syringe
5. Tube restraint
6. Stethoscope
7. ETCO2 Circuit
8. Sterile gloves if available
9. Alcohol wipes
10. Sterile Dressings
11. Suction
12. BVM with oxygen source

### PROCEDURE:

1. Hyperextend the patient's neck. (unless cervical spine injury is suspected) This position brings the larynx and cricothyroid membrane into the extreme anterior position.
2. Use standard isolation precautions. Preferably, don sterile gloves if available.
3. Locate the cricothyroid membrane between the cricoid and thyroid cartilages by palpating the

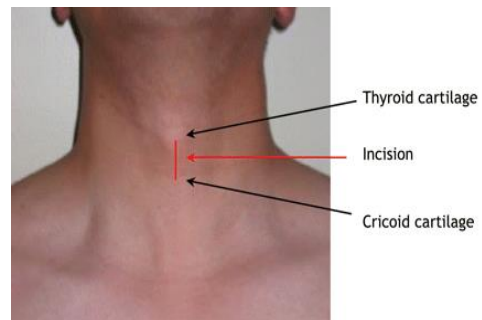


Figure 6



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

depression caudal (towards the feet) to the midline thyroid cartilage.

4. Cleanse the area well with povidone-iodine solution or alcohol.
5. Make a midline, vertical 1.5-2 cm skin incision in the neck over the cricothyroid membrane. Insert scalpel through the cricothyroid membrane. Make a small incision in the membrane. There should be air escape at this point.
6. Note: Brisk bleeding may occur. Do not waste time attempting to control bleeding.
7. Insert the bougie into the incision. Remove the scalpel. Insert your gloved finger into the incision next to the bougie and use your finger to dilate the opening. In an obstructed airway, the patient should be able to inhale air in at this point if still conscious. Proceed to step 9.
8. Optional procedure: Once the incision is made; rotate the scalpel blade 90° and widen the incision, first to one side, then rotate the blade 180° and widen to the other side. Insert the bougie next to the scalpel blade. Proceed to step 9.
9. Insert the 6.0 ET tube over the bougie and advance until the cuff is immediately inferior to the incision.
10. Remove the bougie ensuring the tube remains in place.
11. Inflate the ETT cuff with 5-10 mL of air. Inflate the pilot balloon enough to prevent air leaking around the balloon.
12. Ventilate patient with 100% O<sub>2</sub>.
13. Immediately assess tube placement by auscultating the chest in the axillae and apex locations and over the epigastrium. Bilateral breath sounds and no sound over the epigastrium is the goal.
14. Remove or reposition the tube as needed and then secure with twill tape.

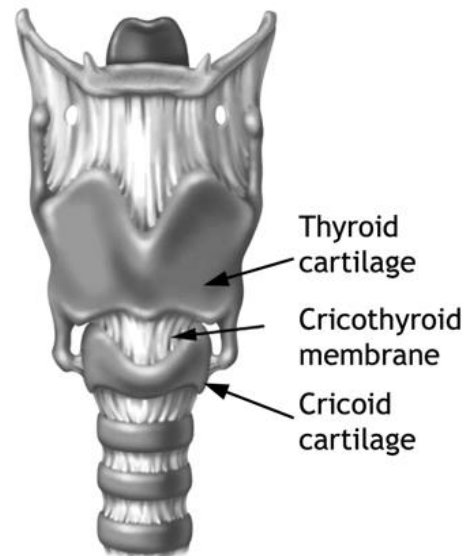


Figure 7

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

15. Capnography must be used in conjunction with frequent auscultation to verify correct ET Tube placement. ETCO<sub>2</sub> levels should be maintained at 35-40 mm/Hg (30-35 mm/Hg for head injury patients with signs of impending brain stem herniation).
16. Document the procedure and patient response.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# DEFIBRILLATION – MANUAL

### INDICATIONS:

1. Ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Turn on monitor/defibrillator.
2. Apply defibrillation electrodes to the patient according to the manufacturer's recommended placement and in accordance to the monitor/defibrillator manufacturer's recommendation (anterior-lateral).
  - a. Ensure the electrodes do not touch and there is room for the LUCAS device suction cup.
  - b. Pediatric electrodes may be used on children 1-8 years old in a shockable rhythm.
    - i. Pediatric energy reducing electrodes are not compatible with the Life Pak 15 and are not used for manual defibrillation.
  - c. Pediatric electrodes may be placed either anterior-lateral or anterior-posterior for manual defibrillation.
  - d. Pediatric electrodes can only be placed anterior-lateral when used in the AED mode.
3. Connect defibrillation electrodes to Life Pak 15 therapy cable.
  - a. Ensure therapy cable is plugged into Life Pak 15
4. Select energy level at 360 j.
  - a. Pediatric energy levels for initial defibrillation 2 j / kg, subsequent energy levels 4 j /kg.
5. Visually check the monitor display and assess the rhythm. (Subsequent steps assume VF/VT is present).
6. Press CHARGE button on defibrillator controls. CPR should be provided while the defibrillator charges (when possible), until it is time to "clear" the victim for shock delivery.
7. When the defibrillator is charged, give the shock as quickly as possible. State firmly in a forceful voice your intent to shock:
  - a. Check to make sure you are clear of contact with the patient, stretcher and equipment and that no one continues to touch the patient or stretcher. In particular, don't forget about the person providing ventilations. That person's hands should not be touching the ventilation adjuncts, including the tracheal tube.
8. Press the DISCHARGE button.
9. Immediately after shock delivery, resume CPR (beginning with chest compressions) without delay and continue for 5 cycles (or about 2 minutes if an advanced airway is in place), and then check the rhythm.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# DUODOTE™ AUTO-INJECTOR & CANA INJECTOR

### PURPOSE:

Provide written guidelines for all personnel on the appropriate use of the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector. The Duo Dote™ Auto-injector contains antidotes to be used in instances of exposure to a nerve or organophosphate agent. In general, the use of Duo Dote™ would only occur in a disaster situation. The Duo Dote™ kit consists of one auto-injector containing Atropine Sulfate and Pralidoxime Chloride [2-PAM CL]. The Duo Dote™ kit is accompanied by a second auto-injector, CANA [Convulsant Antidote Nerve Agent].

### DEFINITIONS:

#### Duo Dote™ Kit:

- Atropine auto-injector (2.1 mg / 0.7 mL total dose per injection)
- Pralidoxime chloride (600 mg / 2mL total dose per injection), known as 2-PAM CL

#### CANA Kit:

Diazepam auto-injector (10 mg total dose per injection) packaged separately from the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector.

#### Emergency Service Provider:

Any out of hospital emergency care provider to include, but is not limited to law enforcement, fire fighter, or others providing disaster relief, where allowed by law.

#### Nerve Agents:

A classification of chemical agents used as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in a terroristic attack. Examples include Tabun, Sarin, Soman and VX.

#### Organophosphates:

Insecticides such as Malathion, Diazinon and Parathion

#### Responder:

Any person licensed as an Emergency Medical Technician –Paramedic (EMT-P), Registered Nurse (RN), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Physician or Medical Doctor (MD), as defined by Nebraska Statute.

#### Toxic Dose:

Dependent on the agent involved. Nerve agents and some organophosphates are highly toxic by inhalation, ingestion or dermal exposure

### AUTHORIZATION FOR USE:

The Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and the CANA are authorized for use by the Physician Medical Director for all paramedic personnel who have received training concerning the recognition and treatment of nerve agent and/or organophosphate exposure in the event of a chemical release. In the case of a nerve agent incident, it would be specific to the disaster setting.

Organophosphate exposure to a responder or provider may be treated as an isolated case with the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### GUIDELINES FOR USE:

The decision to use the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA is based on signs and symptoms of the patient. The goal of using the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA is directed at relieving respiratory distress and alleviating seizures. The suspicion or identified presence of a nerve agent is not sufficient reason on its own, to warrant the administration of the medication.

In the event that a Responder/Emergency Service Provider is experiencing signs & symptoms from a nerve agent or organophosphate exposure, the ideal treatment methodology would be for a non-exposed paramedic to actually administer the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector. In the instance where this is not possible, a paramedic may self-administer the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector.

The pre-measured doses in the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA auto-injector are generally safe for most adults suffering from a nerve agent or organophosphate exposure. However, the dosage for the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA are based upon a male of average height, weight and good health. There is a concern that the use of the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector could lead to administration or inappropriate and potentially harmful doses during a non-chemical agent or minimal exposure situation. Paramedics are reminded to review the INDICATIONS for use and to **only** treat victim Responders/Emergency Service Providers with the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA that are exhibiting signs and symptoms from a nerve agent or organophosphate exposure.

### PRECAUTIONS:

Responders should remember to protect themselves from contact with vapors, liquids and solids.

Responders should wear appropriate respiratory protection, protective clothing and decontaminate the patient. Exposure can occur even after decontamination of patients as patients could expel material in either exhaled breath or vomit.

It is important to give injections into a large muscle area.

Continue to manage the airway by manually clearing, suctioning, BVM ventilation and intubation, if needed.

### INDICATIONS:

Paramedics should use the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA auto-injector only after the following events have occurred:

1. The recognition of the existence of a potential chemical nerve agent or organophosphate agent release in an area
2. Some or all of the signs and symptoms of nerve agent poisoning listed below are present:
  - a. **S** – Salivation (excessive drooling)
  - b. **L** – Lacrimation (tearing of the eyes)
  - c. **U** – Urination
  - d. **D** – Defecation / Diarrhea
  - e. **G** – GI Upset (Abdominal cramping, etc.)
  - f. **E** – Emesis (Vomiting)

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

- g. **M** – Miosis (pinpointing of pupils)
  - h. Muscle twitching / muscle spasms
  - i. Difficulty breathing / respiratory distress / shortness of breath / wheezing
  - j. Confusion / agitation / seizures / coma
3. Consider administering Duo Dote™ Auto-injector.
    - a. If symptoms resolve, continue to monitor the patient.
  4. If more severe signs and symptoms are present:
    - a. Up to three Duo Dote™ Auto-injectors may be administered in rapid succession (stacked).
  5. For severe symptoms in which three (3) Duo Dote™ Auto-injectors have been administered to the patient and the seizures persist, administer CANA (via auto-injector 10 mg IM).
  6. If skin exposure has occurred, decontamination is critical and should be completed with standard decontamination procedures.
  7. The Duo Dote™ Auto-injectors used under this medical treatment guideline are to treat Responders and/or Emergency Service Providers.

### INJECTION PROCEDURE:

1. Remove the Duo Dote™ Auto-injector and CANA from their protective case.
2. With the non-dominant hand, hold the Duo Dote auto-injector so that the green tip (needle end) is pointing down.
3. With the other hand, pull off the gray safety release. The Duo Dote™ is now ready to be administered. Check the injection site (mid-outer thigh) for buttons or objects in the pocket, which may interfere with the injections.
4. Swing and firmly push the green tip straight down (a 90 degree angle) against the mid-outer thigh. Continue to firmly push until you feel the Duo Dote™ injector trigger.
5. After the auto-injector triggers, hold the injector firmly in place against the injection site for approximately 10 seconds.
6. Remove the auto-injector from the thigh and look at green tip. If the needle is visible, the drug has been administered. If needle is not visible, check to be sure gray safety release has been removed, and then repeat the above steps beginning with step 2, but push harder in step 4.
7. Carefully remove the auto injector.
  - a. In a field setting: If a sharps container is not available, injectors should have their needle carefully bent over and then inserted into the patient's collar for visual reference of the number of kits used on the patient.
  - b. In a hospital setting: the injector should be placed into a sharps container.
8. Document the number of auto injectors administered on the patient care report, on the triage tag or attach the used injector(s) to the patients clothing.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### DUODOTE™ ADMINISTRATION BY SEVERITY OF SYMPTOMS:

#### Mild Signs and Symptoms:

1. Blurred vision, miosis (excessive constriction of the pupils)
2. Excessive, unexplained teary eyes
3. Excessive, unexplained runny nose
4. Increased salivation, such as sudden drooling
5. Chest tightness or difficulty breathing
6. Tremors throughout the body or muscular twitching
7. Nausea and/or vomiting
8. Unexplained wheezing, coughing, or increased airway secretions
9. Acute onset of stomach cramps
10. Tachycardia or bradycardia (abnormally fast or slow heartbeat)

#### Treatment of mild symptoms of organophosphate or nerve agent poisoning;

1. FIRST DOSE: In the situation of known or suspected organophosphate or nerve agent poisoning, administer 1 Duo Dote™ injection into the mid-outer thigh if the patient experiences 2 or more MILD symptoms of nerve gas or insecticide exposure.
2. ADDITIONAL DOSES: If, at any time after the first dose, the patient develops any SEVERE symptoms, administer 2 additional Duo Dote™ injections in rapid succession, and immediately seek definitive medical care.

#### Severe Signs and Symptoms:

1. Strange or confused behavior
2. Severe difficulty breathing or copious secretions from lungs/airway
3. Severe muscular twitching and general weakness
4. Involuntary urination and defecation
5. Convulsions
6. Loss of consciousness
7. Respiratory arrest (possibly leading to death)

#### Treatment of severe symptoms of organophosphate or nerve agent poisoning;

1. If a patient has any SEVERE symptoms of organophosphate or nerve agent poisoning, immediately administer 3 Duo Dote injections into the patient's mid-outer thigh in rapid succession, and immediately seek definitive medical care.
2. No more than 3 doses of Duo Dote should be administered unless definitive medical care (e.g., hospitalization, respiratory support) is available.
3. Emergency care of the severely poisoned individual should include removal of oral and bronchial secretions, maintenance of a patent airway, supplemental oxygen, and, if necessary, artificial ventilation.

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

The convulsant antidote for nerve agents (CANA) auto-injector contains 10 mg of the drug diazepam, an anticonvulsant drug used to decrease convulsant activity and to reduce brain damage caused by prolonged seizure activity. Diazepam is recommended in addition to Duo Dote if symptoms include convulsions.



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE INTRODUCER (BOUGIE) or (POCKET BOUGIE)

### INDICATIONS:

1. Difficult intubation with a restricted view of the glottic opening.
2. Predicted difficult intubation.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Three attempts at orotracheal intubation.
2. ETT size less than 6.0 mm.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Prepare position and oxygenate the patient with 100% oxygen.
2. Select proper ET tube without stylet, test cuff and prepare suction.
3. Lubricate the distal end and cuff of the endotracheal tube (ETT) and the distal 1/2 of the Endotracheal Tube Introducer (Bougie) (note: Failure to lubricate the Bougie and the ETT may result in being unable to pass the ETT).
4. Using laryngoscope technique, visualize the vocal cords if possible using Sellick's/BURP as needed.
5. Introduce the Bougie with curved tip anteriorly and visualize the tip passing the vocal cords or above the arytenoids if the cords cannot be visualized.
6. Once inserted, gently advance the Bougie until you meet resistance or "hold-up" (if you do not meet resistance you have a probable esophageal intubation and insertion should be reattempted or the failed airway protocol implemented as indicated).
7. Withdraw the Bougie ONLY to a depth sufficient to allow loading of the ETT while maintaining proximal control of the Bougie.
8. Gently advance the Bougie and loaded ET tube until you have hold-up again, thereby assuring tracheal placement and minimizing the risk of accidental displacement of the Bougie.
9. While maintaining a firm grasp on the proximal Bougie, introduce the ET tube with the stylet removed over the Bougie passing the tube to its appropriate depth. It is recommended that 2 providers perform steps 9-11.
10. If you are unable to advance the ETT into the trachea and the Bougie and ETT are adequately lubricated, withdraw the ETT slightly and rotate the ETT 90 degrees COUNTER clockwise to turn the bevel of the ETT posteriorly. If this technique fails to facilitate passing of the ETT you may attempt direct laryngoscopy while advancing the ETT (this will require an assistant to maintain the position of the Bougie and, if so desired, advance the ETT).

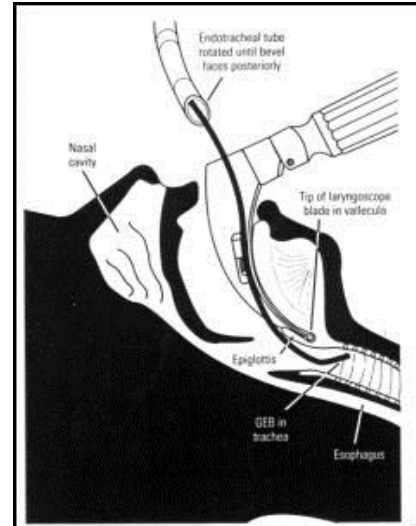


Figure 8

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

11. Once the ETT is correctly placed, hold the ET tube securely and remove the Bougie
12. Confirm tracheal placement according to the intubation protocol, inflate the cuff with 3 to 10 cc of air, auscultate for equal breath sounds and reposition accordingly.
13. When final position is determined secure the ET tube, reassess breath sounds, apply end tidal CO2 monitor, and record and monitor readings to assure continued tracheal intubation.

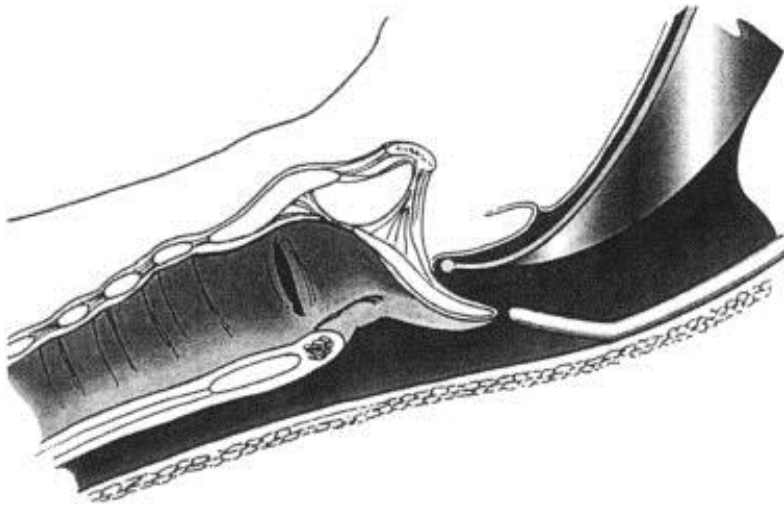


Figure 8:

The bougie tip advances toward the epiglottis as the laryngoscope blade lifts the floor of the mouth to visualize the glottic opening. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

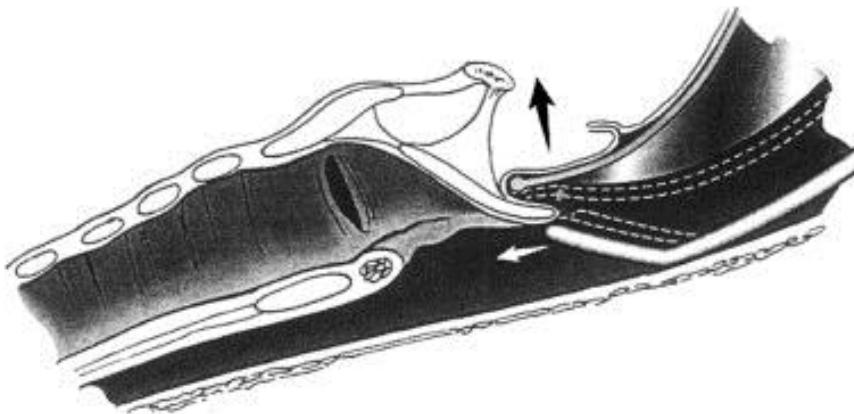


Figure 9:

The top of bougie passes just beneath the epiglottis. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

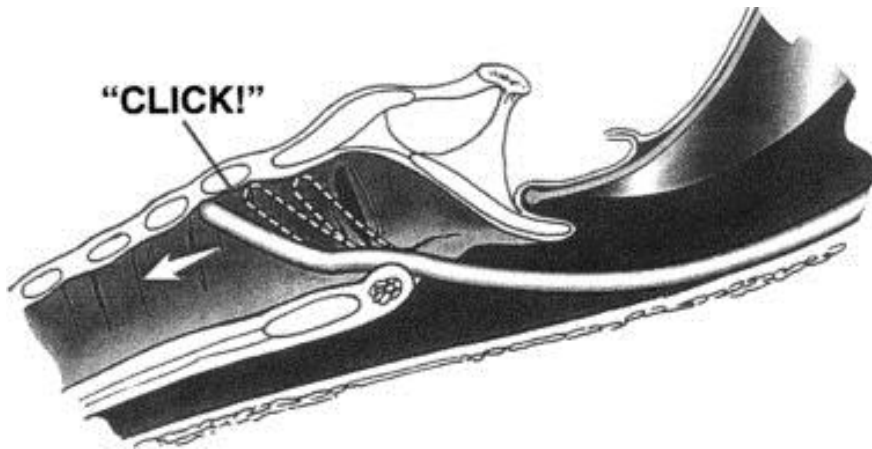


Figure 10:

Vibrations, or clicks, can be palpated as the soft tip of the bougie passes against the rigid tracheal rings. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

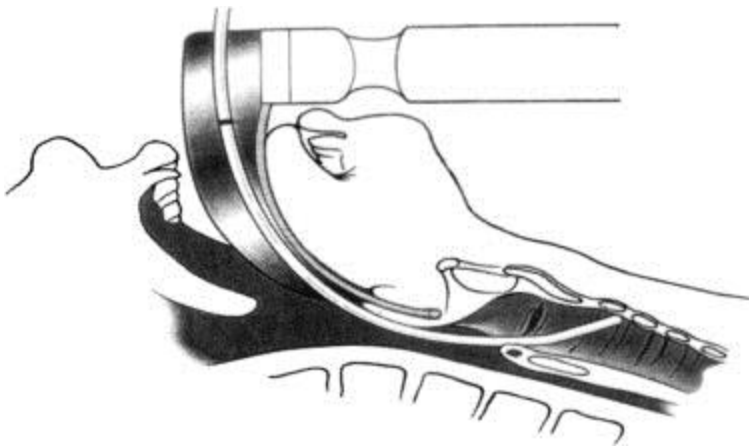


Figure 11:

After presuming the bougie is in the trachea, the bougie is pulled back a few centimeters to keep the tip inside the trachea. The endotracheal tube is threaded onto the distal end of the bougie. Advancement of the bougie must be avoided when sliding the endotracheal tube over the bougie. On some bougie a thick black mark is present 15 cm from the distal end of the device, which helps the operator determine how far to withdraw the bougie before inserting the endotracheal tube. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

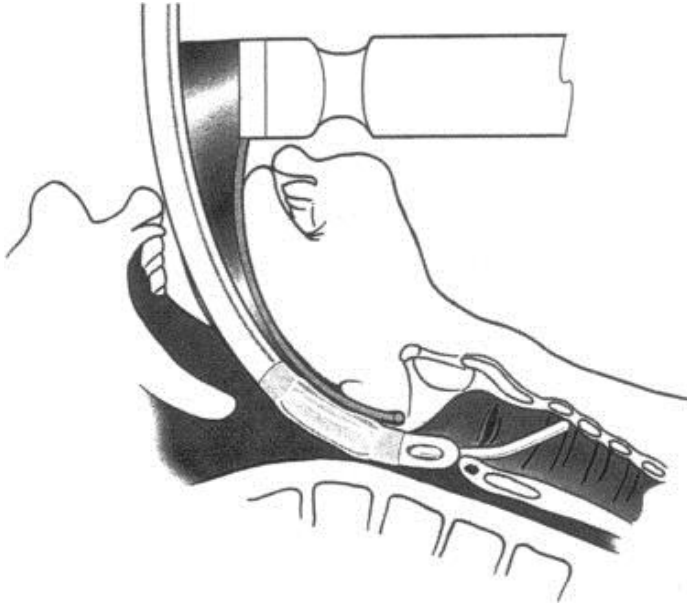


Figure 12:

The bougie must be prevented from advancing down the trachea as the endotracheal tube is “railroaded” over the bougie. As the tip of the endotracheal tube reaches the vocal cords a hold-up usually occurs, preventing further advancement. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

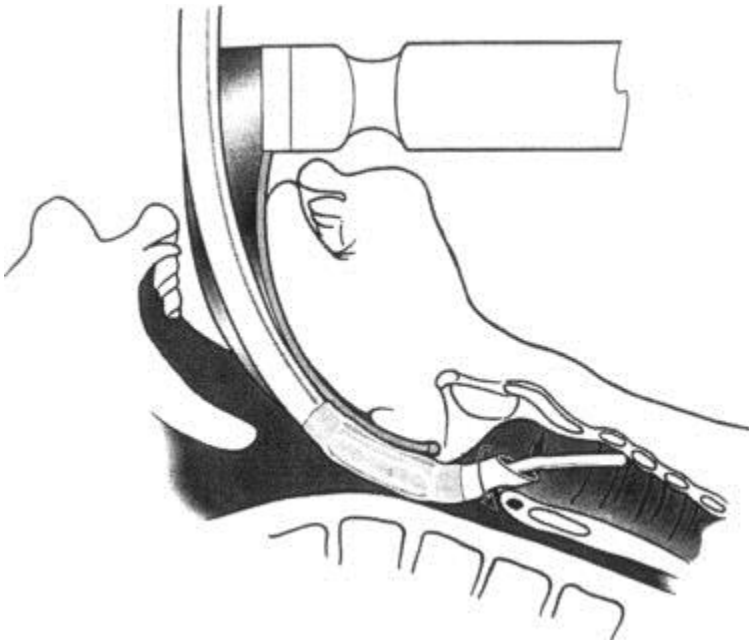


Figure 13:

The endotracheal tube needs to be rotated approximately 90° to avoid the hold-up. The endotracheal tube is advanced and the bougie is pulled out. Standard means for assessing correct placement of the endotracheal tube are then performed. (Courtesy of Phelan MP: Use of the endotracheal bougie introducer for difficult intubations. Am J Emergency Med 22:479-482, 2004.)

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### INTRASOSSEOUS INSERTION – EZ-IO®

#### INDICATION:

The EZ-IO® product system is approved for patients weighing 40 kg and greater using the EZ-IO® AD or LD needle and for patients weighing between 3 and 39 kg using the EZ-IO® PD needle. It is indicated whenever fluid or pharmacological therapy is critical but traditional vascular access techniques are not possible or require too much time to achieve a successful insertion.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Fracture of the tibia or femur.
2. Previous orthopedic procedures. (Example – knee replacement)
3. An extremity that is compromised by a pre-existing medical condition. (Example – tumor or peripheral vascular disease)
4. Any infection at the insertion site.
5. The inability to locate the anatomical landmarks.
6. Excessive tissue over the insertion site. If suspected this can be determined by powering the needle set through the skin and up to but not into the bone. At this point the 5 mm mark on the EZ-IO® catheter should be visible. If this mark is NOT visible, then there is excessive tissue over the site. This excessive tissue may prevent the catheter from penetrating into the IO space.

#### CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Due to the anatomy of the IO space you may note flow rates to be slower than those achieved with IV catheters.
  - a. Ensure the administration of a 10 mL rapid bolus (flush) with a syringe.
  - b. Use a pressure bag or pump for continuous infusions if needed.
2. Insertion of the EZ-IO® in conscious patients causes mild to moderate discomfort and is usually no more painful than a large bore IV. However, IO for conscious patients has been noted to cause severe discomfort, therefore, prior to IO syringe bolus (flush) or continuous infusion in alert patients, SLOWLY administer Lidocaine 2% through the EZ-IO® catheter into the medullary space in the following dosing regimens. Ensure that the patient has no allergies or sensitivity to Lidocaine.
  - a. Adult - EZ-IO® AD or LD slowly administer Lidocaine 20-40 mg.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### PRECAUTIONS:

The EZ-IO® is not intended for prophylactic use.

### EQUIPMENT:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. EZ-IO® driver                   | 2. 10 mL syringe                        |
| 3. EZ-IO® needle set               | 4. Normal saline IV solution and tubing |
| 5. Alcohol or povidone-iodine swab | 6. Tape or gauze                        |
| 7. Extension set or EZ-Connect     | 8. Pressure bag (optional)              |

### PROCEDURE:

If the patient is conscious, advise them of the **EMERGENT NEED** for this procedure.

1. Locate proper site for EZ-IO® insertion.
2. **Adult proximal tibia insertion:** There are three anatomical landmarks of the insertion site that **MUST** be identified before using the device. The first landmark is the patella or kneecap. To locate it, feel the front surface of the leg just below the femur or thigh bone for a “floating” bony structure. The second landmark is approximately 2 finger widths below the patella. It is the tibial tuberosity, a round oval elevation or “bump” on the front surface of the tibia or lower leg. Now, 1 finger width medial (toward the inside) of the tibial tuberosity is the final landmark. This is the insertion site for the EZ-IO® (Figure 14).
3. **Adult humeral insertion:** Expose shoulder and adduct humerus (place the patient’s arm against the patient’s body) resting the elbow on the stretcher or ground and the forearm resting on the abdomen. With the patient in this position you may immediately note the humeral head on the anterior-superior aspect of the upper arm or anterior-lateral shoulder. Palpate and identify the mid-shaft humerus and continue palpating toward the proximal aspect or humeral head. As you near the shoulder you will note a small protrusion. This is the base of the greater tubercle insertion site. With the opposite hand you may consider “pinching” the anterior and inferior aspects of the humeral head while confirming the identification of the greater tubercle. This will ensure that you have identified the midline of the humerus itself (Figure 15).

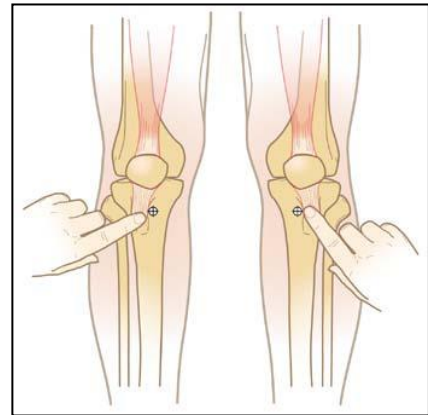


Figure 14

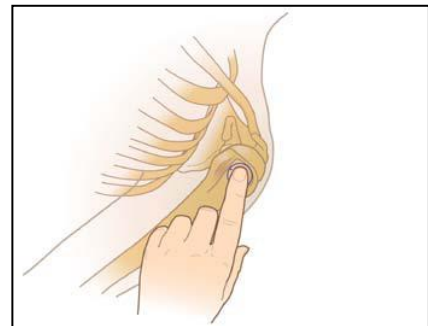


Figure 15

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

4. Pediatric proximal tibial insertion: If the tibial tuberosity CANNOT be palpated, the insertion site is two finger widths below the patella and then medial along the flat aspect of the tibia (Figure 5.16.3). If the tibial tuberosity CAN be palpated, the insertion site is one finger width below the tuberosity and then medial along the flat aspect of the tibia (Figure 16).



Figure 16

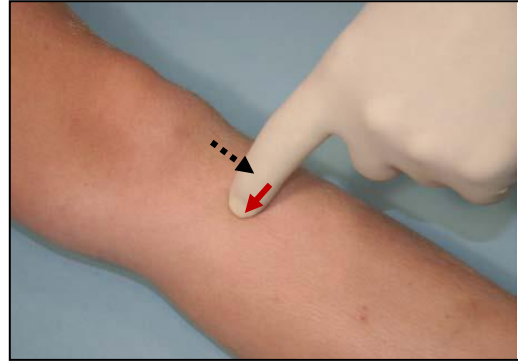


Figure 17

5. Adult distal tibial insertion: The insertion site is approximately two finger widths proximal to the medial malleolus and midline along the tibia (Figure 18).
6. Pediatric distal tibial insertion: The insertion site is approximately one finger width (patients less than 12 kg) and one to two finger widths (patients between 12 and 39 kg) proximal to the medial malleolus and midline along the tibia (Figure 19).

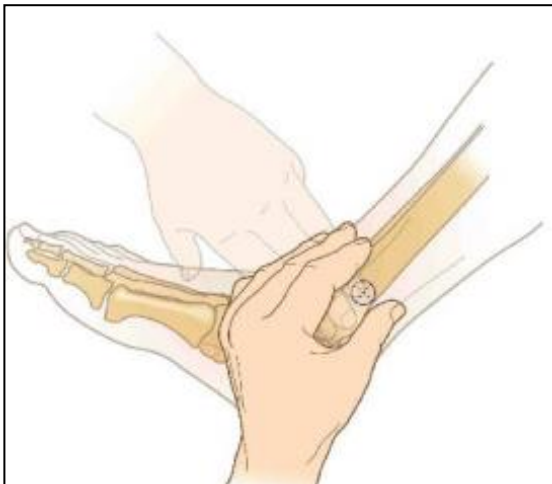


Figure 18

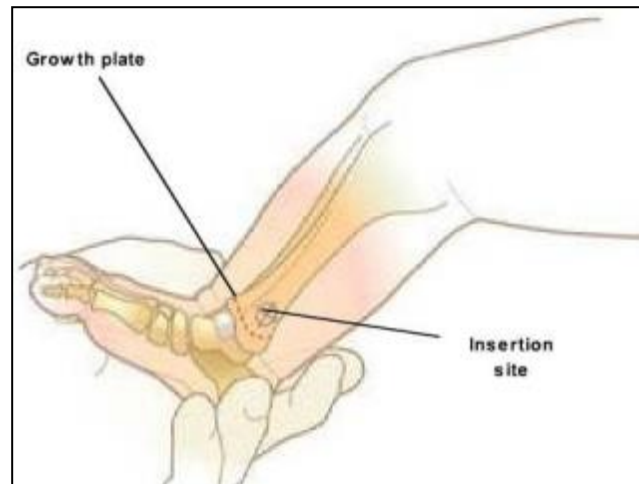


Figure 19

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### PROCEDURE:

1. Always observe body substance isolation (BSI) procedures and aseptic techniques when using the EZ-IO®.
2. Clean the insertion site (use aseptic technique). Use povidone-iodine swab and/or alcohol to clean the site prior to powering the EZ-IO® into position.
3. Prepare the EZ-IO® driver and needle set:
4. Open the EZ-IO® case.
5. Remove the driver and one EZ-IO® needle.
6. Open the EZ-IO® needle package and attach the needle set to the driver (you should feel a “snap” as the small magnet connects)
7. Remove the safety cap from the needle set. One way to remove the cap from the needle set (with the needle facing you) is to grasp the cap tightly and rotate clockwise to loosen and remove. Attempting to “pull” the cap off may remove the entire needle set from the driver – rotating counterclockwise will cause the catheter and stylet to separate.
8. Begin insertion of the EZ-IO® Needle Set (Figure 20).
9. Holding the EZ-IO® driver in one hand, stabilize the leg near the insertion site with the opposite hand. Make sure your hands and fingers are a safe distance from the path of insertion. Be cautious of sudden patient movements.
10. Position the driver at the insertion site with the needle at a 90 degree angle to the surface of the bone. Power the needle set through the skin at the insertion site until you feel the needle set tip encounter the bone itself.
11. At this point if there is any doubt that the needle set is not long enough, verify that you can see the 5 mm marking on the catheter itself (this is the mark closest to the flange). If this mark is not visible, you should abandon the procedure as the needle set may not be long enough to penetrate the IO space.
12. Continue to insert the EZ-IO®.
13. Apply firm and steady pressure on the driver and power through the cortex (hard, outer surface) of the bone, ensuring the driver is maintained at a 90 degree angle at all times.
14. Stop when the needle flange touches the skin or a sudden decrease in resistance is felt. This indicates entry into the bone marrow cavity (intramedullary space).



Figure 20



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

15. Remove driver from the needle set.
16. While supporting the needle set in one hand, gently pull straight up on the driver and lift away.
17. Return the driver to its case.
18. Remove the stylet from the catheter (Figure 20). While grasping the hub firmly with one hand, rotate the stylet counter clockwise (unscrew the stylet from the catheter). Pull the stylet out of the catheter and consider placing it into the empty cartridge, now called the stylet shuttle. The stylet shuttle must then be placed in an FDA-approved biohazard container as soon as possible. Do not replace or attempt to “recap” the stylet.

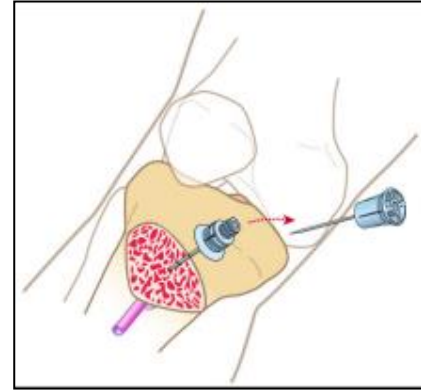


Figure 21

19. Confirm proper EZ-IO® catheter tip position. Proper placement of the IO catheter tip can be confirmed through any of the following:
  - a. The IO catheter stands straight up at a 90-degree angle and is firmly seated in the tibial bone.
  - b. Blood at tip of the stylet (sometimes visible).
  - c. Aspiration of a small amount of bone marrow with a syringe.
20. A free-flow of drugs or fluids without difficulty and with no evidence of leakage (extravasation) underneath the skin.

21. Attach the primed EZ-Connect or any standard Luer lock extension set to the EZ-IO® hub and slowly administer the Lidocaine bolus. **Then use a syringe to flush the IO space with 10 mL of normal saline.** (Figure 22. Prior to fluid administration be certain to flush the EZ-IO® catheter with 10 mL of fluid. A rapid syringe flush will “clear the pathway” allowing for an acceptable infusion rate.

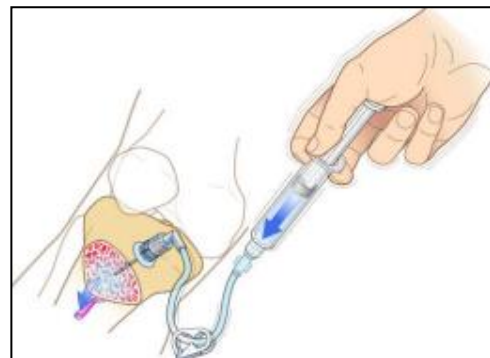


Figure 22

22. Initiate the infusion. Administer the infusion or medications per your local medical protocol. A pressure infuser may be necessary to maintain adequate flow rates.
23. Apply the wristband and a dressing. The wristband is designed as a reminder of EZ-IO® placement and need for timely removal. The EZ-IO® catheter may be secured in place with a standard dressing.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### REMOVAL

1. The EZ-IO® catheter should be removed within 24 hours.
2. Either grasp the hub directly or attach a sterile syringe. The syringe will serve as a larger handle for the catheter hub and is preferred (Figure 23). Support the patient's extremity while rotating the catheter clockwise and gently pulling. Rotating the hub during removal reduces catheter to bone friction and will allow for an easier removal process. Once the catheter has been removed immediately place it in an approved biohazard sharps container.

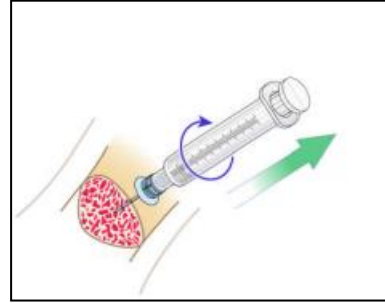


Figure 23

**NOTE:** Removal of the extension or fluid administration set, without proper protection of the EZ-IO® hub (in the form of a sterile cap, port or extension set), could cause bleeding or infection.

**NOTE:** Maintaining a 90 degree angle while rotating the catheter will insure proper removal without complications.

**NOTE:** Be certain that you DO NOT ROCK the catheter while removing. Rocking or bending the catheter with a syringe may cause the catheter to separate from the hub.

**NOTE:** If hub-catheter separation occurs use an appropriate hemostat to grasp and gently remove the catheter in the same manner as suggested above (rotating while gently pulling).

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### INTRAOSSUEOUS INSERTION – JAMSHIDI STYLE

#### INDICATIONS:

When vascular access is critical; but a peripheral IV site cannot be located or secured. Use only in unconscious, unresponsive patients. Contact the base physician [**Medical Direction**] for permission to use in patients six years or age or older.

#### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. Available secure IV line.
2. Current or recent fracture of the tibia (use the opposite leg).
3. Severe injury (fractures, crush, etc.) of the proximal extremity (use the opposite leg).
4. Pelvic fractures.
5. History of bone disorders.
6. Previous IO attempt in the same extremity.

#### EQUIPMENT:

1. IO needle (figure 24)
2. Normal saline IV solution and tubing
3. 10 mL syringe filled with normal saline
4. Alcohol wipes
5. Tape



Figure 24

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Prepare equipment and IV administration set.
2. Place the patient in a supine position.
3. Support the child's leg (small towel roll under the knee) and externally rotate to expose medial aspect of the leg.
4. Select and prepare the insertion site.
  - a. Palpate the proximal tibia to find the tibial tuberosity, and then locate a point on the flat aspect of the tibia 2-3 cm below the tuberosity.
5. Prep site with alcohol wipes.
6. Insert the needle at a 90-degree angle to the surface of the tibia with firm downward pressure using a firm, back-and-forth twisting motion to penetrate the skin and then the periosteum and bone cortex. Entrance into the medullary cavity will be felt by a "pop" or sudden loss of resistance.
7. Manually stabilize the needle. Remove the stylet from the needle (keep sterile) and aspirate marrow contents with a 10 mL syringe filled with normal saline. Inject entire contents of aspirate and NS into the bone marrow. If marrow cannot be aspirated but fluid flushes easily without evidence of swelling, the needle can be considered properly placed.
  - a. If IV fluid will not infuse:

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

- i. Remove the IV line without moving the needle.
    - ii. Repeat aspiration and flush with 10cc syringe.
  - b. If IV fluid still will not infuse:
    - i. Reinsert the sterile stylet.
    - ii. Advance the needle slightly.
    - iii. Remove the stylet (keep sterile).
    - iv. Restart the infusion.
8. May re-attempt x 1 if both attempts fail begin immediate transport to the receiving hospital or contact Medical Control for further options.
9. Attach IV tubing to the hub and infuse at w/o rate. Observe for continuous free flow without signs of infiltration.
10. Secure needle; screw down the needle depth guard until it is flush to the skin, tape securely in place.
11. Set desired drip rate.
12. Monitor the calf to ensure that there is no swelling to indicate leakage or fluid.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATION

### INDICATIONS:

1. Respiratory arrest.
2. Unresponsive medical or trauma patients who lack a gag reflex.
3. Cardiopulmonary arrest.
4. Patients with a GCS less than 8.
5. Conscious patients with respiratory distress who are unable to ventilate adequately.

### CONTRAINDICATION:

1. Epiglottitis.

### NECESSARY EQUIPMENT:

1. BVM with O2 source.
2. Laryngoscope blade and handle.
3. Twill tape.
4. Appropriate size ETT and stylet.
5. 10 cc syringe.
6. Stethoscope.
7. ETCO2 circuit
8. Magill forceps.
9. Oropharyngeal Airway. (For initial airway management and / or use as a bite block).
10. I-gel. (If unable to intubate)

### PROCEDURE: (MAXIMUM OF 2 ATTEMPTS per PROVIDER)

1. Use standard isolation precautions including eye protection. Use a facemask and gown when splashing is likely.
2. Open the airway and pre-oxygenate the patient with a bag-valve-mask supplied with 100% O2 for at least 1 minute (BVM ventilation requires cricoid pressure until the tube is confirmed to be in the trachea). Ventilation should be repeated for a minimum of 1 minute anytime 30 seconds without ventilation has elapsed for an intubation attempt.
3. Auscultate for breath sounds to establish a baseline.
4. Assemble and check the equipment including:
  - a. Check the distal cuff for leaks.
  - b. Lubricate the distal end of the endotracheal tube with a water-soluble lubricant (optional).
  - c. Ensure the stylet, if used, is recessed 2 CM from the distal end of the endotracheal tube.
  - d. The laryngoscope is bright white and tightly secured in place.
5. Turn on the suction unit and attached the appropriate tip.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

6. Place the head and neck into a “sniffing position” to align the three axis of the mouth, pharynx and trachea.
  - a. When there is a potential for cervical spine injury, ensure the head is firmly held in a neutral position during intubation.
7. Holding the handle in the left hand, insert the laryngoscope blade into the right side of the patient’s mouth. Using a sweeping motion, displace the tongue to the left.
8. Move the blade slightly toward the midline and advance it until the distal end is positioned at the base of the tongue.
9. Visualize the tip of the epiglottis and then place the laryngoscope blade into the proper position.
  - a. Curved (Macintosh) blade is advanced into the vallecula.
  - b. Straight (Miller) blade is inserted under the epiglottis.
10. Lift the laryngoscope slightly upward and forward to displace the mandible and airway structures without allowing the blade to touch the teeth.
11. Keeping the left wrist straight, use the shoulder and arm to continue lifting the mandible and tongue at a 45° angle to the ground until the glottis is exposed. If necessary, have another provider apply cricoid pressure.
12. Grasp the endotracheal tube in the right hand, holding it the same way a pencil is grasped. Hold the tube horizontal to the ground. Advance it through the right corner of the patient’s mouth, directing the distal end of the tube up or down to pass it into the pharynx.
13. Insert the endotracheal tube into the glottic opening and advance it until the cuff disappears slightly (1 to 2 cm) past the vocal cords. Observe the tube as it enters the glottic opening.
14. Hold the tube in place with a free hand. Do not release the tube before it is secured in place. With your other hand, remove the stylet and then insert the oropharyngeal airway between the teeth or gums as a bite block.
15. Inflate the distal cuff with the prefilled syringe. Use only the minimum amount of air necessary to create an effective seal and prevent air leakage. Do not overinflate the cuff.
  - a. Ensure the syringe is removed after the distal cuff is inflated.
16. Attach a bag-valve-mask to the tube.
  - a. Place the ETCO<sub>2</sub> circuit onto the ET tube with the BVM.
  - b. Ensure supplemental O<sub>2</sub> @ 15 L/min is attached to the BVM via O<sub>2</sub> connecting tube.
17. Deliver several breaths with the bag-valve-mask and confirm proper tube placement as follows:
  - a. Auscultate over the epigastrium.
  - b. Auscultate the chest bilaterally at the axillae, apices and the bases for the presence of equal, bilateral lung sounds.
  - c. Observe for symmetrical chest rise and fall with each breath.
  - d. Observe patient for clinical improvement (i.e., pulse oximetry, skin condition).
18. Confirm proper tube placement with a ETCO<sub>2</sub> detection circuit:
  - a. ETCO<sub>2</sub> DETECTION / MONITORING – CAPNOGRAPHY
    - i. ETCO<sub>2</sub> should be maintained at 35-45 mm/Hg.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

- ii. For head-injured patients with signs of impending brain stem herniation, maintain @ 30-35 mm/Hg.
19. Note and record the depth of the endotracheal tube at the teeth.
20. Ventilate the patient with the bag-valve-mask supplied with 100% oxygen as indicated.
  - a. During CPR: Deliver 8 to 10 breaths per minute. Deliver each breath over about 1 second while chest compressions are delivered at a rate of at least 100 per minute, and do not attempt to synchronize the compressions with the ventilations.
  - b. Patients with a perfusing rhythm: Deliver approximately 10 to 12 breaths per minute (1 breath every 6 to 7 seconds). Deliver these breaths over 1 second.
21. Secure the endotracheal tube in place with a commercial device or twill tape while continuing ventilatory support.
22. Re-confirm tube placement after the tube is secured, after every patient movement and at regular intervals. Application of a cervical collar and immobilization device will help prevent the patient from moving in such a way as to dislodge the endotracheal tube.

### SEDATION:

1. If patient regains consciousness or gag reflex returns AND the patient's airway needs continued protection AND the patient is hemodynamically stable.
  - a. Give Midazolam 2.5 mg slow IVP titrated to effect.

### COMPLICATION: ESOPHAGEAL INTUBATION

1. Deflate the distal cuff.
2. Remove ET tube from patient.
3. Vigorously suction the oropharynx as needed.
4. Pre-oxygenate the patient prior to re-intubation, if an additional attempt is permitted.

### COMPLICATION: ENDOBRONCHIAL INTUBATION

1. Loosen the securing device.
2. Deflate the distal cuff.
3. For a right main stem bronchus intubation, continue ventilating and slowly withdraw the tube while simultaneously auscultating the left side of the chest.
4. Stop withdrawing the tube once breath sounds are heard on the left side.
5. Auscultate both sides of the chest. Breath sounds should be heard equally and bilaterally.
6. Note and record the tube depth, re-inflate the distal cuff and secure the tube in place.

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

### **EXTUBATION:**

Extubation is indicated if the patient is able to protect and maintain an open airway, the risks for needing to re-intubate are significantly reduced and the patient is not sedated. This should rarely if ever be performed in the field!

To perform the procedure:

1. Ensure adequate oxygenation.
2. Confirm patient responsiveness.
3. Suction the oropharynx.
4. Deflate the distal cuff.
5. Remove the endotracheal tube on cough or respiratory expiration.



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# PREEXISTING VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICE – DIALYSIS PATIENT

### INDICATION:

1. Obtaining venous access when peripheral access is not obtainable or is inadequate.

### CONTRAINDICATION:

1. Other peripheral access is readily available.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Set up a normal saline IV with emphasis on fully flushing the IV tubing.
2. Expose the access device area.
3. Prepare equipment:
  - a. Alcohol pads or equivalent.
  - b. Several 4x4 pads.
  - c. Two (2) 10 mL syringes.
  - d. Surgical mask.
4. Use one 10 mL syringe to draw 10 mL of normal saline from the IV bag.
5. Open a 4x4 dressing and place it around the tip of the access port to create a sterile field.
6. Apply surgical mask.
7. Cleanse the tip of the port aggressively with an alcohol pad or equivalent cleanser (i.e., povidone- iodine solution, etc.).
8. Remove the cap to the port and attach the empty 10 mL syringe to the catheter port.
9. Unlock the clamp on the access line, if applicable, and aspirate blood from the port. Blood should aspirate freely. If it does not, replace the cap and DO NOT use the access port.
10. Lock the clamp, if applicable, and remove the syringe with the aspirated blood. Dispose of the syringe in a biohazard container.
11. Connect the syringe containing 10 mL of normal saline to the port, unlock the clamp, and flush the device. The line should flush easily. Re-clamp the line.
12. Remove the syringe and connect the IV to the port. Unclamp the line and adjust flow rate as needed.

### COMPLICATIONS:

1. **Infection:** Strict adherence to aseptic technique is crucial when handling any PVAD.
2. **Air embolism:** The PVAD provides a direct line into the central circulation; introduction of air into these devices can be hazardous.
  - a. Do not remove injection cap from catheter unless catheter is clamped.
  - b. Do not allow IV fluids to run dry.
  - c. Always expel air from preload/syringe prior to administration.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

3. **Thrombosis:** A blood clot within the vascular system caused by improper handling and maintenance of the PVAD. Dislodging a clot can cause pulmonary embolus or vascular damage.
  - a. Follow medications with 5 mL normal saline.
  - b. Do not inject medications or fluids if resistance is met. When establishing patency, draw back first.
4. **Catheter damage:** Should damage occur to the external catheter, clamp immediately between the skin exit site and the undamaged area to prevent air embolism or blood loss.
5. **Bleeding:** If a device is damaged from trauma, maintain direct pressure as for an arterial bleed.

### KEY POINTS:

Under no circumstances are prehospital providers allowed to use a fistula for access.

For patients within the Dialysis Center, the dialysis nurse may establish access through the dialysis catheter.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### SUCTIONING – TRACHEOBRONCHIAL

#### INDICATION:

1. Perform tracheobronchial suctioning to remove mucus plugs or secretions causing respiratory compromise in an intubated patient.

#### PRECAUTIONS:

1. Because tracheobronchial suctioning can bring about hypoxia, the patient must be oxygenated before and after the procedure.
2. If possible, a sterile technique should be used.
3. Monitor the cardiac rhythm. If dysrhythmias or if bradycardia develops, the suctioning should be stopped and the patient re-oxygenated.
4. Limit suction force to a maximum of 80 to 120 mm/Hg in pediatrics.

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Use standard isolation precautions including eye protection. Use a facemask and gown when splashing is likely.
2. Pre-oxygenate with a bag-valve-mask device supplied with 100% oxygen.
3. Determine the appropriate length of insertion, using the patient's suprasternal notch and the proximal end of the airway adjunct as endpoints.
4. Open the catheter package.
5. Lubricate the catheter tip with a water-soluble gel or dip in saline. This facilitates passage of the catheter through the endotracheal tube.
6. Insert the suction catheter into the opening of the endotracheal tube. Pass the catheter to the predetermined depth.
7. Turn the suction unit on or place the thumb over the suction control opening.
  - a. It may be necessary to inject 3 to 5 mL of saline into the endotracheal tube to loosen tenacious secretions.
8. Withdraw the catheter rotating it between the fingertips. Limit suctioning to 15 seconds. In infants and children, shorter suction time should be used.
9. Flush out the suction catheter and tubing with saline and evaluate the need for additional suctioning and the patency of the airway.
10. Ventilate the patient with a bag-valve-mask device supplied with 100% oxygen.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# SYNCHRONIZED CARDIOVERSION

### INDICATIONS:

1. A patient experiencing any supraventricular or ventricular tachycardia (rate greater than 150 bpm) with unstable signs and symptoms related to the tachycardia. Unstable signs and symptoms include but are not limited to altered mental status, ongoing chest pain, hypotension or other signs of shock.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

2. Ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia.
3. Poison or drug-induced tachycardia.

### PRECAUTIONS:

1. Urgent cardioversion is generally not needed if heart rate is less than or equal to 150 bpm.
2. Reactivation of sync mode is required after each attempted cardioversion.
3. Prepare to defibrillate immediately if cardioversion causes VF.
4. Synchronized cardioversion cannot be performed unless the patient is connected to monitor leads; lead select switch must be on lead I, II, or III and not on "paddles."
5. If cardioversion is needed and it is impossible to synchronize a shock (e.g., the patient's rhythm is irregular), use high-energy unsynchronized shocks.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Consider sedation with Fentanyl 25 mcg SIVP
  - a. May repeat x 1 to a max dose of 50 mcg.
2. Turn on monitor/defibrillator
  - a. Select lead II on lead select switch. Make sure the lead select switch is not placed in paddles mode.
3. Attach monitor leads to the patient. Make sure the monitor displays the patient's rhythm clearly without artifact.
4. Engage the synchronization mode by pressing the "SYNC" control button.
5. Look for markers on R waves indicating sync mode.
6. If necessary adjust R-wave gain until sync markers occur with each R wave.
7. Position defibrillation pads on the patient.
8. Select appropriate energy level:
  - a. Adult with unstable V-tach with a pulse;
    - i. 1st synchronized shock at 100 J.
      1. If no conversion, proceed to next energy setting.
    - ii. 2nd synchronized shock at 200 J.
      1. If no conversion, repeat at current energy setting.
    - iii. 3rd synchronized shock at 300 J.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

1. If no conversion, consider use of medications.
  - b. Adult with unstable SVT or atrial flutter;
    - i. 1st synchronized shock at 50 J.
      1. If no conversion, proceed to next energy setting.
    - ii. 2nd synchronized shock at 100 J.
      1. If no conversion, proceed to next energy setting.
    - iii. 3rd synchronized shock at 200 J.
      1. If no conversion, consider the use of medications.
  - c. Pediatric patient with unstable tachycardia;
    - i. 1st synchronized shock at 1 J/kg.
      1. If no conversion, proceed to next energy setting.
    - ii. 2nd synchronized shock at 2 J/kg.
9. Activate the ECG recorder to provide a constant recording of the rhythm.
10. Announce to team members "Charging defibrillator – stand clear!"
11. Make one more quick check of the monitor to confirm that tachycardia continues.
12. Press the CHARGE button on the monitor.
13. When the defibrillator is charged, give the shock as quickly as possible. State firmly in a forceful voice your intent to shock:
  - a. Check to make sure you are clear of contact with the patient, stretcher and equipment and that no one continues to touch the patient or stretcher. In particular, don't forget about the person providing ventilations. That person's hands should not be touching the ventilation adjuncts, including the tracheal tube.
14. Press the DISCHARGE button and hold down the button until the device discharges. (There can be a delay of several seconds while the device attempts a proper synchronization between the last part of the R wave and the discharge of current.)
15. Assess the patient's LOC and vital signs.
16. Check the monitor. If tachycardia persists, increase the joules according to step # 8 of this protocol and repeat shock process.
17. Reset the sync mode after each discharge of current, because most defibrillators default to unsynchronized mode. This default allows immediate defibrillation if cardioversion produces VF.
18. Repeating cardioversion after initial 3 shocks can only be done after contacting the base physician [**Medical Direction**].

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# THORACENTESIS – NEEDLE

### INDICATION:

1. A patient presenting with a suspected tension pneumothorax.
2. Closed or penetrating chest trauma with respiratory distress.
3. Absent breath sounds on the side of the injury.
4. Systolic blood pressure less than 90 mm/Hg in adults or less than 80 mmHg in children, with signs of shock.
5. Difficulty ventilating with a BVM.
6. Anxiety and restlessness.
7. Tachypnea.
8. Cyanosis.
9. Hypotension
10. Jugular vein distention.
  - a. May not be present with significant hypovolemia or hypotension.
11. Narrow pulse pressure.
12. Tracheal deviation (late sign and may not present).

### EQUIPMENT:

1. 10 G (3" long) over-the-needle catheter.
2. Alcohol wipes.
3. Tape and sterile dressing.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Identify the second intercostal space on the side of the pneumothorax.
  2. Place a finger on the clavicle at its midpoint.
  3. Run this finger straight down the chest wall to locate the first palpable rib below the clavicle.
  4. The second intercostal space lies just below this rib, midway between the clavicle and the nipple line (figure 25).
1. Alternate Method: Place your finger at the notch in the top of the sternum.
    - a. Move your finger slowly downward about 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) until you feel a slight horizontal ridge or elevation. This is the Angle of Louis where the manubrium joins the body of the sternum.



Figure 25



Figure 26

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

- b. Locate the second intercostal space on either side, lateral to and just below the Angle of Louis.
  - c. Cleanse the area with an alcohol or povidone-iodine swab.
2. May consider 5th intercostal space at the mid-axillary line.
3. Select 10 G (3" long) over-the-needle catheter. Remove the flash chamber cap.
4. Attach a syringe filled with sterile water or saline to the needle hub of the catheter (optional).
5. Advance the needle into the second intercostal space. Assure you enter the thoracic cavity by passing the needle just over the top of the 3rd rib to avoid interference with the blood vessels and nerves that run along the underside of the rib (figure 26).
6. As you enter the pleural space, you will feel a pop and note bubbling air through the fluid in the syringe (if used).
7. Advance the catheter into the chest and then withdraw the needle and syringe. Be careful not to kink the catheter.
8. Secure the catheter in place with tape, being careful not to block the port or kink the catheter.
9. Monitor the patient's vital signs and breath sounds for a recurring tension pneumothorax.
10. If signs and symptoms are not relieved by the initial needle thoracotomy, or signs and symptoms recur, decompress the chest again by placing additional catheters adjacent to the original catheter.

### COMPLICATIONS:

1. Local cellulitis.
2. Local hematoma.
3. Pleural infection, emphysema.
4. Pneumothorax.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

1. For an open pneumothorax, immediately cover the open area with a gloved hand. Once materials are available, cover the area with an occlusive dressing.
2. An open pneumothorax that has been sealed with an occlusive dressing may result in a tension pneumothorax. In that instance, the increase in pleural pressure may be relieved by briefly removing the dressing. If that air release does not occur or the patient's condition remains unchanged, gently spread the chest wound open with a gloved hand, allowing the trapped air to escape.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# TRANSCUTANEOUS CARDIAC PACING

### INDICATIONS:

1. Hemodynamically unstable bradycardia refractory to medications.
2. Symptomatic high-degree AV block.

### PRECAUTIONS:

1. Limit use of the carotid pulse to confirm mechanical capture. Electrical stimulation causes muscular jerking that may mimic a carotid pulse.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Turn on monitor/defibrillator.
2. Select lead II on lead select switch. Make sure the lead select switch is not placed in paddles mode.
3. Attach monitor leads to the patient. Make sure the monitor displays the patient's rhythm clearly without artifact.
  - a. If the patient's condition permits, obtain 12 Lead ECG prior to TCP.
4. Identify pacing electrode sites. If necessary, shave hair to ensure good skin contact or use alternative pacing electrode positions in patients with excessive body hair.
5. For anterior-lateral pacing electrode placement:
  - a. Place the anterior electrode below the right clavicle lateral to sternum.
  - b. Place the lateral (apex) electrode lateral to left nipple with the center of the electrode on the midaxillary line.
6. For anterior-posterior pacing electrode placement:
  - a. Place the anterior electrode over the left precordium. The upper edge of the electrode should be below the nipple. Avoid placement over the nipple, the diaphragm, or the bony prominence of the sternum if possible.
  - b. Place the posterior electrode behind the heart in the infra-scapular area. For patient comfort, place the cable connection away from the spine. Do not place the electrode over the bony prominences of the spine or scapula.
7. Muscle fasciculation's will typically be seen at ~50 mA and the patient will experience pain levels at ~ 40-50 mA.
  - a. Consider sedation. Sedation should not delay pacing in the severely symptomatic patient. Extreme care should be taken to give the minimum amount for sedation to avoid respiratory compromise/depression or hypotension.
    - i. Fentanyl:
      1. Adults: 25 mcg IV/IO. May repeat to max of 50 mcg.
      2. Peds: 1 mcg/kg IV/IO to a max of 25 mcg.
8. Activate pacing function by pressing the PACER button.
9. Ensure the monitor is sensing the R wave. Increase the gain if necessary.



## ALS Procedure Guidelines

10. Set the rate at 80 bpm.
11. Slowly increase current output from the minimum setting (40 mA) until electrical capture is achieved.
  - a. Electrical capture is usually characterized by a widening of the QRS complex (looks like a PVC) and a broad T wave, with the T wave opposite the polarity of the QRS complex. Sometimes only a change in the intrinsic morphology indicates pacing.
12. Assess the hemodynamic response (mechanical capture) to pacing by assessing pulse and blood pressure.
  - a. Take pulse at the right carotid or right femoral artery to avoid confusion between the jerking muscle contractions caused by the pacer.
  - b. May consider increasing pacer rate to a maximum of 100 beats per minute to obtain a blood pressure of 100 mmHg systolic.
  - c. If mechanical capture cannot be obtained, consider moving the precordial pacing electrode to a different location.
    - i. If capture still cannot be obtained, consider discontinuing pacing attempt and treating with medications or contacting the base physician for further options  
**[Medical Direction]**.
13. Obtain an ECG tracing of the patient's paced rhythm. Attach the strip to the patient care report.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

### VEIN CANNULATION – EXTERNAL JUGULAR

#### INDICATION:

1. When peripheral IV access is critically indicated but an upper extremity vein cannot be catheterized.

#### CONTRAINDICATION:

1. The external jugular vein is not visible.

#### PROCEDURE:

1. Prepare all equipment as for peripheral IV access in an upper extremity.
2. Place the patient in a supine and/or in the Trendelenburg position. This position will increase blood flow to the chest and neck, thus distending the vein and making it easier to see. Additionally, the Trendelenburg position decreases the chance of air entering the circulatory system during cannulation.
3. Turn the patient's head away from the side of the access site. This maneuver makes the site easier to see and reach. Do not perform this maneuver if the patient has traumatic head and/or neck injuries.
4. Identify the external jugular vein. The external jugular can be located between the angle of the jaw and the middle third of the clavicle.
5. Using a circular motion, cleanse the site thoroughly with an alcohol wipe or povidone-iodine. Allow the area to dry before penetrating the skin.
6. Occlude venous return by placing a finger on the external jugular just above the clavicle. Never apply a venous constricting band around a patient's neck.
7. Position the venipuncture device parallel with the vein, midway between the angle of the jaw and the clavicle. Point the catheter at the medial third of the clavicle and insert it, bevel up, at a 10° to 30° angle. Cannulate the vein in the usual method.
8. Connect an injection port or an extension set and the IV tubing to the catheter hub. Be careful not to contaminate either the hub or connector before insertion.
9. Open the IV flow control valve and run the IV infusion for a brief period of time to ensure that the line is patent. To ensure proper IV flow rates, the IV container must hang 30 to 36 inches above the insertion site.
10. Secure the catheter, administration set tubing and sterile dressing in place with tape or a commercial device.
11. Adjust the IV to the appropriate flow rate for the patient's condition.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

# VEIN CANNULATION – PERIPHERAL

### INDICATIONS:

1. To obtain venous access for the administration of medications and/or fluids.

### PRECAUTIONS:

1. IV therapy is an invasive vascular procedure that carries a number of risks, including bleeding, infiltration and infection. Because performing venipuncture can be very difficult in some patients, it requires maintenance of ongoing skill proficiency.

### CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Prehospital vein cannulation efforts should be limited to two attempts per provider.
2. Preparations for vein cannulation should be coordinated with rescue efforts so patient transport is not delayed.

### PROCEDURE:

1. Explain the need for IV cannulation and describe the procedure to the patient.
2. Select the IV fluid to be used. Check to make sure that it is the proper fluid, clean, without particulate matter, not outdated and not leaking.
  - a. Saline locks may be used for intravenous medication delivery are established using aseptic technique, in an expedient manner. IV extension tubing attached to a 10cc pre-filled syringe should be utilized for routine adult saline lock administration. Saline locks should be used on patients who require medication administration only. If at any time, the patient's clinical presentation changes to require intravenous fluids, an IV can be established utilizing the already placed IV extension tubing.
3. Select an appropriately sized catheter:
  - a. Adults: 14 to 16 gauge for trauma, for volume replacement or cardiac arrest.
  - b. Adults: 18 to 20 gauge for medical conditions.
  - c. Children: Based on clinical judgment or job aids such as a length-based resuscitation device.
4. Select the proper administration set (e.g., macro- or micro-drip).
  - a. Attach a macrobore IV extension set to all routine adult IV administrations.
5. Prepare the IV bag and administration set using an aseptic technique to prevent contamination.
6. Prepare other equipment including tape, occlusive dressings, injection port, 4X4, etc.
7. Use standard isolation precautions.
8. Place the patient in a comfortable position with the selected extremity lower than the heart.
9. Apply a tourniquet. Avoid keeping the tourniquet in place for more than 2 minutes.
10. Select a suitable vein by palpation or sight. Avoid areas where a valve is situated.
11. Using a circular motion, cleanse the site thoroughly with an alcohol wipe or povidone-iodine. Allow the area to dry before penetrating the skin.

## ALS Procedure Guidelines

12. Stabilize the vein by anchoring it with the thumb and stretching the skin downward.
13. Perform venipuncture without contaminating the equipment or the site.
  - a. Hold the end of the venipuncture device between the thumb and the index/middle fingers. Avoid touching any portion of the catheter because a contaminated device is not usable.
  - b. Depending on the type of venipuncture device and manufacturer recommendations, hold the needle at a 15°, 30° or 45° angle to the skin.
  - c. Penetrate the skin with the bevel of the needle pointed up. If possible, penetrate the vein at its junction or bifurcation with another vein; it is more stable at this location.
  - d. Enter the vein with the needle from either the top or the side. Normally, a slight “pop” or “give” is felt as the needle passes through the wall of the vein. Be careful not to enter too fast or too deeply; the needle can go through the back wall of the vein.
  - e. Note when blood fills the flashback chamber of the needle.
  - f. Lower the venipuncture device and advance it another 0.5 cm until the tip of the catheter is well within the vein.
  - g. While holding the needle stable, advance the catheter into the vein until the hub is against the skin.
  - h. Once the catheter is within the vein, apply pressure to the vein beyond the catheter tip.
  - i. Release the tourniquet from the patient’s arm.
  - j. Withdraw the needle.
14. Dispose of the needle in a proper biomedical waste container.
15. Connect an injection port or an extension set and the IV tubing to the catheter hub. Be careful not to contaminate either the hub or connector before insertion.
16. Open the IV flow control valve and run the IV infusion for a brief period of time to ensure that the line is patent. To ensure proper IV flow rates, the IV container must hang 30 to 36 inches above the insertion site.
17. Secure the catheter, administration set tubing and sterile dressing in place with tape or a commercial device. The tubing should be looped and secured with tape above the IV cannulation site.
18. Adjust the IV to the appropriate flow rate for the patient’s condition.

### Formula to Calculate IV Flow Rate:

$$\text{Flow Rate (gtts/min)} = \frac{\text{Volume to be infused (mL)} \times \text{properties of administration set (gtts/mL)}}{\text{Time of infusion (in minutes)}}$$

## **ALS Procedure Guidelines**

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Director (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical Director Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

(A signed copy is available at the Training Division)

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