

How to correctly insert a round-hole pigtail



Overview

101 Skills: Percutaneous Pigtail Catheter Placement CTSNet provides a broad range of video and text-based educational content, the Wire Guided Pigtail Cath.

Key Takeaways

A round-hole pigtail catheter is inserted using a modified Seldinger technique, ensuring proper placement, secure fixation, and safe drainage of fluid collections. Pre-Procedure Preparation

- Patient Assessment: Confirm the indication for drainage (e.g., pleural effusion, pneumothorax, abscess) and review imaging to determine the size, depth, and location of the collection ().
- Laboratory Checks: Ensure coagulation parameters are within safe limits ($\text{INR} \leq 1.5$, platelets $\geq 50,000$) and renal function is adequate ().
- Positioning: Tilt the patient 30–45 degrees with the affected side up. Use a towel or bean bag for support, ensuring optimal access to the insertion site ().
- Sterile Preparation: Clean the area using aseptic technique and ensure all necessary equipment is ready, including the pigtail catheter, guide wire, dilator, syringe, and drainage system ().

Step-by-Step Insertion

- Local Anesthesia: Administer intravenous analgesia if needed and infiltrate the insertion site down to the pleura with 1% lidocaine ().

- **Needle Insertion:** Insert the introducing needle over the top of the rib toward the target site. Advance gently (≤ 2 cm) while aspirating to confirm entry into the fluid or pleural space ().
 - **Guide Wire Placement:** Attach the guide wire to the needle hub and advance it smoothly without resistance. Remove the needle while leaving the guide wire in place ().
 - **Dilation:** Thread the dilator over the guide wire, twisting gently to enlarge the tract. Remove the dilator while keeping the guide wire secured ().
 - **Catheter Placement:** Advance the pigtail catheter over the guide wire until all portholes are inside the cavity. Ensure the guide wire extends beyond the catheter tip during insertion ().
 - **Guide Wire Removal:** Slowly withdraw the guide wire, allowing the catheter to curl naturally within the cavity ().
 - **Securing the Catheter:** Suture the catheter to the skin and attach the multipurpose adaptor to connect it to the prefilled drainage system ().
- Post-Procedure Management**
- **Drainage Monitoring:** Observe the output and ensure the catheter remains patent.
 - **Imaging Confirmation:** Consider a follow-up X-ray or ultrasound to verify correct catheter placement.
 - **Infection Prevention:** Maintain sterile handling and monitor for signs of infection at the insertion site (). Following these steps ensures safe, effective, and minimally traumatic drainage using a round-hole pigtail catheter, reducing the risk of complications such as malposition, bleeding, or infection ().

Article Content

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Insert the obturator all the way into the pigtail catheter with the stop cock, and lock it in place. This will ensure that your

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Straighten the pigtail catheter tip and insert over the guide wire. Advance until all holes are in the chest, and then

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Step 6: Remove dilator and advance pigtail catheter over the guide wire Step 7: With dilator removed, advance catheter until most

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