



Section 14: Appendix 2: Medical Procedures

SECTION 14: EXTERNAL JUGULAR INTRAVASCULAR (IV)

A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P

INDICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	CONTRAINDICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External jugular vein cannulation is indicated in a critically ill patient > 8 years of age who requires intravenous access for fluid or medication administration and in whom an extremity vein is not obtainable External jugular cannulation can be attempted initially in life threatening events where no obvious other peripheral site is noted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dehydration Hypovolemia Need for drug therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only (1) attempt per pt. Start IV Away from head, towards feet

PROCEDURE

1. Place the patient in a supine head down position. This helps distend the vein and prevents air embolism.
2. Turn the patient's head toward the opposite side if no risk of cervical injury exists.
3. Position yourself at patient's head.
4. Locate external jugular vein.
5. Select IV catheter.
6. Prep the site as per peripheral IV site.
7. Align the catheter with the vein and aim toward the same side shoulder.
8. "Tourniqueting" the vein lightly with one finger above the clavicle, puncture the vein midway between the angle of the jaw and the clavicle and cannulate the vein in the usual method.
9. Attach the IV and secure the catheter avoiding circumferential dressing or taping.
10. Secure IV using appropriate measures to insure stability of the line.
11. Check for signs of infiltration.
12. Adjust flow rate.
13. Document the procedure, time, and result on the patient care report (PCR).

**ONLY (1) ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE DURING EXTERNAL JUGULAR IV
DO NOT ATTEMPT AN IV ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE NECK**

KEY POINTS

- Hypotensive patients may not produce a good "flash" from their EJ vein.
- May use a syringe to aspirate blood on the back of the IV catheter to help establish patency.
- Flow a bolus of saline through EJ IV catheter to assure solid patency prior to administering medications through the line, especially dextrose or vasopressors.