Section 23

Pediatric Vascular Access



Developed January 2024

Pediatric Intravenous Cannulation Protocol	
Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion Procedure	23.B.1



Pediatric Intravenous Cannulation Protocol

(A-EMT/EMT-I & Paramedic ONLY)

IV Access

Intravenous cannulation is used in the pre-hospital setting to establish a route for drug administration and/or to provide fluid replacement. Intravenous cannulation should not significantly delay scene times or be attempted while on scene with a trauma patient who meets load-and-go criteria.

- 1. Explain to the patient the need for and a brief description of the procedure. Use distraction therapy to put the pediatric patient more at ease.
- 2. Observe the universal precautions for body substance exposure.
- 3. Obtain an appropriately sized catheter:
 - a. 18 or 20 gauge for trauma patients.
 - b. 20 or 22 gauge for fluid replacement.
- 4. Check the fluid:
 - a. Is it the right fluid?
 - b. Check the expiration date.
 - c. Check for color and clarity (IVF should be clear with no particles).
- 5. Connect the administration set to the IV fluid. Make sure that air bubbles are expelled from the tubing and that all chambers have the appropriate fluid levels.
- 6. Procedure per scope of practice.

Pediatric Intravenous Cannulation Protocol

(A-EMT/EMT-I & Paramedic ONLY)

Saline Locks

Saline locks may be used if fluid replacement is not indicated:

1. Procedure per scope of practice.

Fluid Replacement

Age	Average Weight for Age in Pounds (lbs)	Average Weight for Age in Kilograms (kg)	Fluid Bolus at 20mL/ kg
Newborn	7	3	60
3 months	13	6	120
6 months	15	7	140
9 months	20	9	180
12 months	22	10	200
2 years	26	12	240
4 years	35	16	320
6 years	44	20	400
8 years	57	26	520
10 years	66	30	600
12 years	90	41	820

** A fluid bolus for pediatric patients should be 20 mL/kg. If needed, a second bolus at 20 mL/kg can be administered. If additional fluid is needed, Medical Control approval must be obtained prior to administering a third bolus at 20 mL/kg. Total fluid resuscitation in the field will not exceed 60mL/kg.

Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion Procedure

(A-EMT/EMT-I & Paramedic ONLY)

Intraosseous infusion is defined as a puncture into the medullary cavity of a bone that provides a rapid access route for fluids and medications. Obtaining emergency intravenous access in critically ill pediatric patients (especially those less than 3 years old) can be extremely difficult, time consuming and, at times, impossible. Intraosseous access is performed on critically ill children in whom fluid and/or drug treatment is paramount and intravascular access is not rapidly accessible or feasible.

Indications for IO (No I.V. attempts required)

• Any infant/ child in extremis and in need of immediate drug administration or fluid resuscitation.

• Unresponsive or severely altered LOC that is not readily explainable (i.e. not Post-ictal, Hypoglycemia etc.).

• Cardiac/ respiratory arrest.

EZ-IO Procedure

NOTE: The EZ-IO System is the preferred device, however this device can only be used on children greater than 3kg. For children less than 3kg, refer to the Jamshidi procedure.

- 1. Observe universal precautions.
- 2. Prepare the EZ-IO driver and pediatric needle set:
 - a. 15ga, 15mm long needle (pink) for patients weighing between 3kg and 39k
 - b. 15ga, 25mm long needle (blue) for patients weighing greater than 40kg
- 3. Locate landmark of insertion site by palpating the anterior surface of the tibial bone 1-3 cm below the tibial tuberosity and slightly medial. Landmark for insertion must avoid the joint and epiphyseal plate.
- 4. Prep the site with Betadine and set up infusion solution as for regular IV.
- 5. Stabilize site and insert appropriate needle set.
- 6. Remove EZ-IO driver from needle set while stabilizing catheter hub.
- 7. Remove stylet from the catheter; place stylet in EZ-IO shuttle or approved sharps container.
- 8. Attach 5-10mL syringe and aspirate bone marrow to confirm placement.
 - a. IO catheter should be at a 90-degree angle and firmly seated in the tibial bone.
 - b. Blood may be visible at the tip of the stylet.
 - c. The IO catheter should flush freely without difficulty or evidence of extravasation.
- 9. Connect the luer-lock equipped IV administration set.
- 10. For conscious patients you may first administer Lidocaine (slowly): 0.5mg/kg IO (maximum dose; 40mg).
- 11. Then rapidly flush the IO catheter with 5mL of normal saline.
- 12. Utilize a pressure bag for continuous infusions where applicable. If a pressure bag is not available, wrap a BP cuff around the bag of IV fluids and inflate the cuff until desired flow rate is achieved.

Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion (IO) Procedure

EZ-IO Procedure {Continued}

- 13. Dress site, secure tubing and apply wristband as directed.
- 14. Closely monitor EZ-IO site en route.

Critical Thinking Elements

- Do not access a site that is fractured at or above the insertion site or has obvious indications of infection
- Do not use an area previously used for IO attempts.
- Sometimes marrow cannot be aspirated and does not necessarily indicate improper placement.
- Excessive movement of the IO needle may result in leakage.
- The volume of pediatric fluid resuscitation is based on weight and clinical response. Pediatric fluid administration must be carefully regulated.

Jamshidi Style IO Procedure- (Paramedic ONLY)

NOTE: The EZ-IO System is the preferred device for children weighing greater than 3kg. The Jamshidi IO should be used in children weighing less than or equal to 3kg.

- 1. Observe universal precautions.
- 2. Assemble and prepare equipment.
- 3. Locate landmarks of insertion site by palpating the anterior surface of the tibial bone 1-3 cm below the tibial tuberosity and slightly medial. Landmark for insertion must avoid the joint and epiphyseal plate.
- 4. Prep the site with Betadine and set up infusion solution as for regular IV.
- 5. With sterile technique, using a commercial IO (Jamshidi) needle, insert needle at a 90-degree angle and slightly 10-15 degrees inferior through the bone using firm downward pressure with a twisting motion. You should feel a "pop" when the needle goes into the medullary space.
- 6. Remove the inner stylet and attach a 5-10mL syringe. Aspirate for bone marrow contents, and then connect a conventional IV line with pressure infuser (or BP cuff).
- 7. Secure the line with tape and dressing.
- 8. Administer drugs and fluids as needed.
- 9. Assess sight for signs of infiltration or leakage. Discontinue IO line if either of these occurs.

Pediatric Intraosseous Infusion (IO) Procedure

Critical Thinking Elements

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- Do not use an area previously used for IO attempts.
- Sometimes marrow cannot be aspirated and does not necessarily indicate improper placement.

