



# Venous Access

## External Jugular Access

BUNCOMBE  
MADISON  
YANCEY  
EMS



### Clinical Indications:

External jugular vein cannulation is indicated in a critically ill patient  $\geq 12$  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 peripheral site is noted.

### 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 away from the injection site if no risk of cervical injury exists.
3. Prep the site as per peripheral IV site.
4. Align the catheter with the vein and aim toward the same side shoulder.
5. "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.
6. Attach the IV and secure the catheter avoiding circumferential dressing or taping.

### Certification Requirements:

- EMT-P
- Successfully complete a skill evaluation for this procedure at least once during the certification period.