

T-P1 NEEDLE DECOMPRESSION

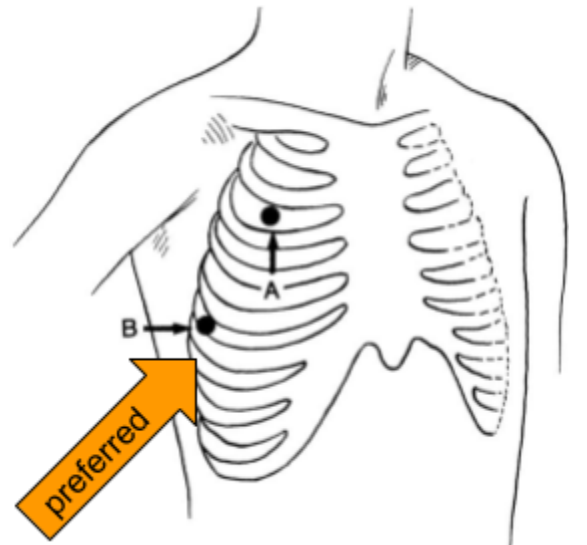


Indications

- Tension Pneumothorax
- Refer to Chest Trauma Guideline [T-09] (see *Tension Pneumothorax*) for specific indications

Procedure

1. Cleanse skin on affected side using aseptic technique
2. Using a large-bore (e.g. 14 or 16 gauge) 3 ½” angiocath (see *figure*), insert between the
 - [A] 2nd-3rd mid-clavicular, or
 - [B, preferred] 4th-5th mid-axillary spaces.
3. Advance needle until “pop” is felt while the needle is entering the pleural space
4. Advance catheter until hub contacts skin
5. Cover catheter hub with Asherman Chest Seal (ensure one way valve effect)
6. Reassess patient for breath sound changes
7. If signs of tension recur,
 - Check chest seal
 - Consider repeating chest decompression per above steps
8. Contact Medical Control
9. Transport ASAP



Pediatrics:

- Use the same procedure for pediatric patients
- Substitute an 18 or 20-gauge angiocath