A Training Aid for IV Access

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Abstract

Starting intravenous drip is one of the first steps in the treatment of a patient. Training is the key to attain proficiency to get intravenous access.

MJAFI 2003; 59 : 242

Key Words : Intravenous access; Training aid

Introduction

Gaining vascular access by the first responder is vital to save life in emergencies, battle casualties and critically injured / ill patients. A simple, easily fabricated training model is presented to train the first responders i.e. Battle Front Nursing Assistants, paramedical and nursing staff. This model can be fabricated in all medical units.

Material

Surgical glove
Foley's catheter
Cotton
IV drip set

Method

Tip of the Foley's catheter is tied with silk, proximal to the eye to prevent leakages of the IV fluid and then introduced in the glove. Cotton is stuffed for making hand and forearm (Fig 1). Coloured IV fluid (Gentian violet and normal saline) is connected to the Foley's catheter.

Advantages

Feel of the Foley's catheter is like that of a vein and glove mimics the skin
Degree of difficulty can be increased/decreased by gauge of the Foley's catheter and amount of cotton around the catheter
Patient is not required for practice

Fig. 1 : Training model for IV access

Model can be easily made with material readily available
It is very cheap

Disadvantages

Very basic

Conclusion

Gaining IV access is life saving in many an emergency situation. This model is recommended to train first responders in all medical units.

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