

AIRLINK CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT

Femoral Arterial Blood Draw

Objective:

This procedure is used to draw a peripheral arterial blood specimen in order to assess the respiratory system of a patient through arterial blood gas analysis. Typically patients in low perfusion states would benefit from this procedure to obtain central pH, PCO₂ and PO₂, and lactate levels

Indications:

Any intubated patient or patient in respiratory or ventilatory failure. Unable to obtain preferred radial artery draw due to poor blood flow, trauma to extremities, patient positioning.

Contraindication:

Absolute

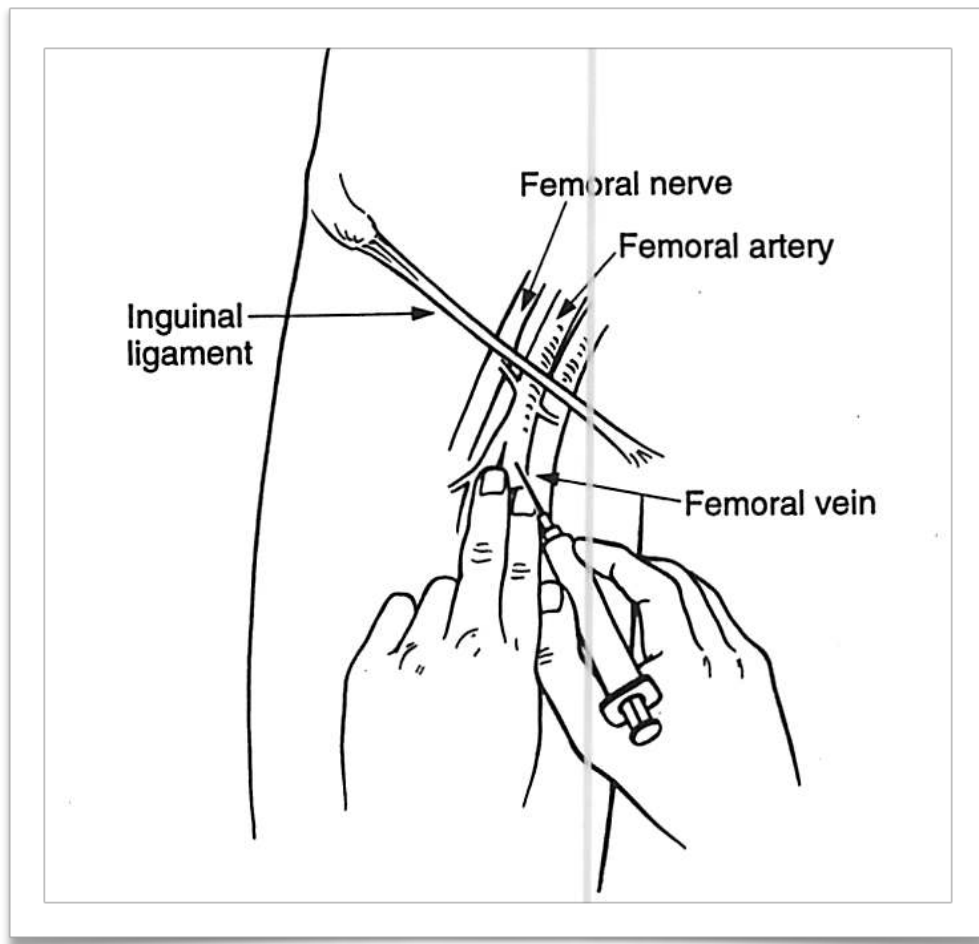
- Active bleeding from groin/pelvis.
- Non-palpable pulses.
- Multiple pelvic fractures, unstable pelvis.

Relative

- Coagulation defects.

Procedure:

1. Don appropriate PPE.
2. Determine the appropriate side from which to draw the specimen.
3. Palpate the femoral pulse.
4. Slightly roll the target extremity externally to access femoral region.
5. Cleanse the site.
6. Place two fingers on each side of the pulsating femoral artery approximately 2-3 cm below the inguinal ligament.



7. Puncture the skin with the bevel of the needle at a 60- 90 degree angle toward the pulsation. The syringe should rapidly fill with bright red blood. Do not dig or probe with the needle. If you have difficulty, slightly reposition the needle. If you continue to have difficulty, stop and restart the procedure or use other limb.
8. Once the appropriate amount of blood has filled the syringe rapidly remove the needle and hold pressure for approximately 2 to 5 minutes.
9. Safely remove the needle and expel any air contained within the syringe.
10. Immediately perform the test with the specimen.
11. Reassess neurovascular status.

Complications:

1. Arterial spasm.
2. Rapidly developing hematoma below access site. Continue active pressure to site.
3. Impaired circulation to extremity.

References:

1. Procedures for Primary Care Physicians, 1994 p 344-346