

Ultrasound-guided internal jugular access: a proposed standardized approach and implications for training and practice.

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Ultrasound-Guided Internal Jugular Access: A Proposed Standardized Approach and Implications for Training and Practice

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In 2001, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality recommended the use of ultrasound for the placement of central venous catheters (CVCs) as one of their 11 practices to improve patient care. These recommendations were based on the results of several randomized clinical trials showing significantly improved overall success as well as reductions in complications. This article will describe the practical aspects of using ultrasound to guide placement of CVCs in the internal jugular vein in a “how I do it” approach, as well as review the practice management and training aspects related to incorporating ultrasound into daily practice.



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Key Words

central venous catheter; complications; internal jugular vein; outcomes; ultrasound

Abbreviations

CPT, current procedural terminology; CVC, central venous catheter; IJ, internal jugular

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