Arterial catheterization

Points to practice

1 Preparation
   • Extend the wrist to stretch the artery to bring it to a more neutral position.
   • Anesthetize the site if desired and prepare with an appropriate skin antiseptic.
   • Remove the needle cover.
   • Hold the catheter hub and rotate the barrel 360 degrees to release the tip seal.
   • Stabilize the artery by using two fingers along its course (Fig 1).

2 Venipuncture
   • Enter the artery at a 15–45 degree angle (Fig 2).

3 Advancement
   • On visualization of flashback behind the white button, lower the catheter angle almost parallel to the skin and advance the entire unit slightly to ensure the tip of the catheter is within the artery.
   • Advance the catheter of the needle into the artery.
   • Exert digital pressure just beyond the tip of the catheter and stabilize the catheter hub (Fig 3).

4 Needle removal
   • Hold the needle unit straight and press the white activation button to initiate needle retraction (Fig 4).

5 Securement
   • Securely connect the IV administration set and apply a sterile dressing per your facility protocol.

Caution reminders
   • Do not withdraw the needle from the catheter hub before pressing the white button.
   • The needle should be retracted prior to disposal in a puncture-resistant, leak-proof sharps container per your facility protocol.
   • Never reinsert the needle into the catheter as this may shear the catheter.
   • Do not use scissors at or near the insertion site.

Consult product insert for complete instructions, warnings and cautions.