

Intradermal Injection

Introduction:

Intradermal injections are commonly used for diagnostic purposes. Examples include tuberculin test and allergy testing. Small volumes, usually 0.01 to 0.05ml, are injected because of the small tissue space.

Injection Sites:

A common site for an intradermal injection is the inner aspect of the forearm. Other areas that may be used are the back and upper chest.

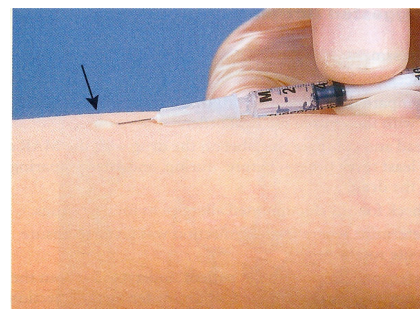
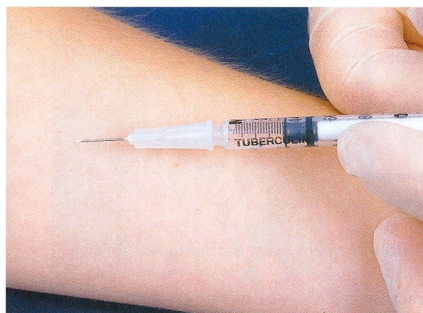
Equipment:

- Vial or ampule of medication
- Alcohol swab
- Tuberculin syringe
- 25- to 27-gauge needle measuring a half-inch in length
- Clean gloves

Technique:

1. Check the medical orders.
2. Obtain clean gloves, tuberculin syringe, appropriate needle, and alcohol swabs.
3. Prepare the syringe with the medication.
4. Wash your hands and don gloves
5. Read the name on the patient's identification band.

6. Select an area on the inner aspect of the forearm, about a hand's breadth above the patient's wrist.
7. Cleanse the area with an alcohol swab using a circular motion outward from the site where the needle will pierce the skin.
8. Allow the skin to dry.
9. Hold the patient's arm and stretch the skin taut.
10. Hold the syringe almost parallel to the skin at a 10° to 15° angle with the bevel pointing upward. Then insert the needle about 1/8 inch.
11. Push the plunger of the syringe and watch for a small wheal (elevated circle) to appear.



12. Withdraw the needle at the same angle at which it was inserted.
13. Do not massage the area after removing the needle.
14. Deposit the uncapped needle and syringe.
15. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.
16. Observe the patient's condition for at least the first half-hour after performing an allergy test.
17. Observe the area for signs of a local reaction at standard intervals, such as at 24 and 48 hours after the injection.

Checklist for Intradermal Injection

1. Mentions hand washing
2. Assembles correct equipment in the tray
3. Introduces oneself to the patient and checks patient's name
4. Explains procedure to the patient and gets verbal consent
5. Selects an area on the inner aspect of the forearm, about a hand's breadth above the patient's wrist
6. Wears gloves
7. Uses alcohol swab to clean skin
8. Holds the patient's arm and stretches the skin taut
9. Holds the syringe almost parallel to the skin at a 10° to 15° angle with the bevel pointing upward. Inserts the needle about 1/8 inch
10. Pushes the plunger of the syringe and watches for a small wheal (elevated circle) to appear
11. Withdraws the needle at the same angle at which it was inserted
12. Discards the syringe without recapping the needle
13. Removes gloves and washes hands
14. Observes the patient's condition for at least the first half-hour after performing an allergy test
15. Observes the area for signs of a local reaction at standard intervals, such as at 24 and 48 hours after the injection
16. Thanks and listens to the patient's questions