

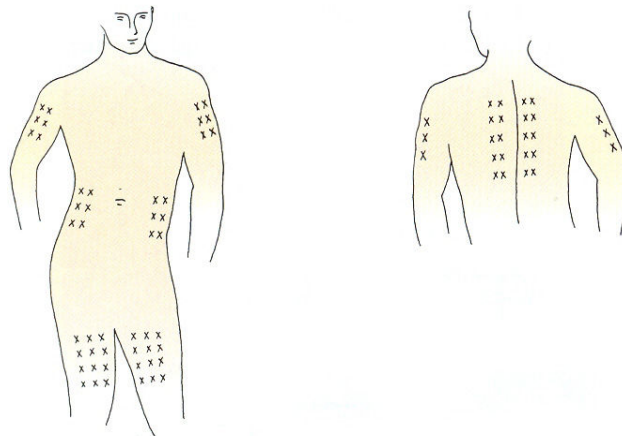
Subcutaneous Injection

Introduction:

A subcutaneous injection is administered more deeply than an intradermal injection. Medication is instilled between the skin and muscle and absorbed fairly rapidly: the medication usually begins acting within a half-hour of administration. The volume of a subcutaneous injection is usually up to 1 ml. the subcutaneous route is commonly used to administer insulin and heparin.

Injection Sites:

The site for giving a subcutaneous injection include the upper arm, thigh, abdomen, and back.



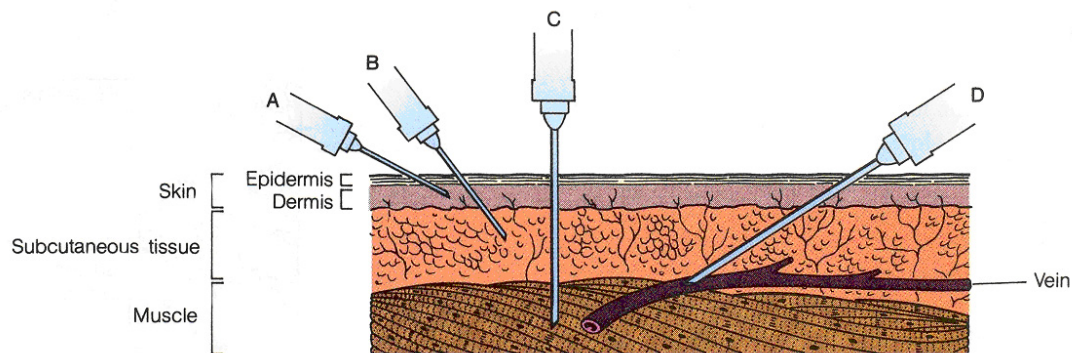
Equipment:

- 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, appropriate syringe and needle, and alcohol swabs.
3. Prepare the syringe with the medication.
4. Wash your hands and wear gloves.
5. Read the name on the patient's identification band.
6. Select and prepare an appropriate site by cleansing it with an alcohol swab.

7. Allow the skin to dry.
8. Bunch the skin at the site or spread it taut.
9. Pierce the skin at a 45° or 90° angle of entry. (To reach subcutaneous tissue in a heavy person, a half-inch needle is inserted at a 90° angle. For thin or average size patients, the needle is inserted at a 45° angle).
10. Release the tissue once the needle is inserted and use the hand to support the syringe at its hub.
11. Pull back gently on the plunger with a free hand and observe for blood in the barrel.
12. Inject the medication by pushing on the plunger if there is no blood after aspiration.
13. Withdraw the needle quickly while applying pressure against the medication site.
14. Massage the site, unless contraindicated.
15. Deposit the uncapped needle and syringe.
16. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.
17. Assess the patient's condition at least 30 minutes after giving the injection.



Injection routes. (A) intradermal, (B) subcutaneous, (C) intramuscular, (D) intravenous.

Checklist for Subcutaneous 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 appropriate site
6. Wears gloves
7. Uses alcohol swab to clean skin
8. Bunches the skin at the site or spread it taut
9. Pierces the skin at a 45° or 90° angle of entry
10. Releases the tissue once the needle is inserted and use the hand to support the syringe at its hub
11. Pulls back gently on the plunger with a free hand and observe for blood in the barrel
12. Injects the medication by pushing on the plunger if there is no blood after aspiration
13. Withdraws the needle quickly while applying pressure against the medication site
14. Massages the site, unless contraindicated
15. Deposits the uncapped needle and syringe
16. Removes gloves and washes hands.
17. Assesses the patient's condition at least 30 minutes after giving the injection
18. Thanks and listens to the patient's questions