
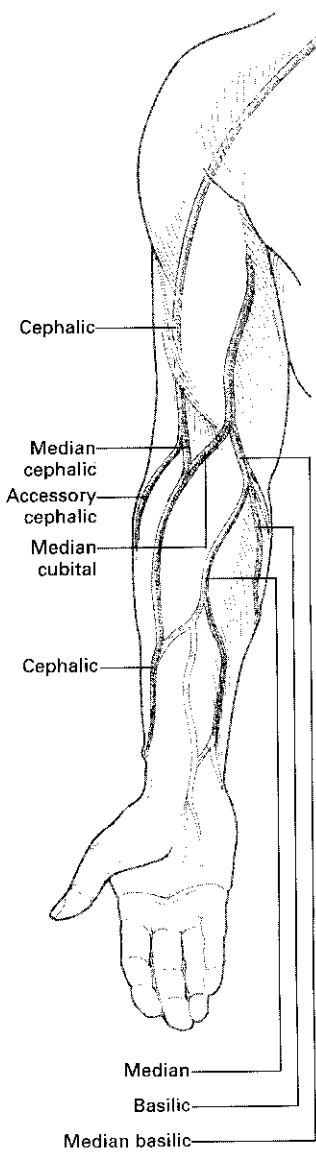


Incredibly Easy!

Comparing peripheral venipuncture sites

VENIPUNCTURE SITES located in the hand, forearm, foot, and leg offer various advantages and disadvantages. The following chart includes some of the major benefits and drawbacks of several common venipuncture sites.

SITE	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Digital veins Run along lateral and dorsal portions of fingers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be used for short-term therapy • May be used when other means aren't available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splinting fingers with a tongue blade required, which decreases ability to use hand • Uncomfortable for patient • Significant risk of infiltration • Can't be used if veins in dorsum of hand already used
Metacarpal veins On dorsum of hand; formed by union of digital veins between knuckles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily accessible • Lies flat on back of hand • In adult or large child, bones of hand act as splint. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrist movement decreased unless short catheter is used • Painful insertion likely because of large number of nerve endings in hands • Phlebitis likely at site
Accessory cephalic vein Runs along radial bone as a continuation of metacarpal veins of thumb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large vein excellent for venipuncture • Readily accepts large-gauge needles • Doesn't impair mobility • Doesn't require an armboard in an older child or adult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some difficulty positioning catheter flush with skin • Discomfort during movement because equipment is located near wrist
Cephalic vein Runs along radial side of forearm and upper arm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large vein excellent for venipuncture • Readily accepts large-gauge needles • Doesn't impair mobility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased joint movement because device is close to elbow • Tendency of vein to roll during insertion
Median vein Arises from palm and runs along ulnar side of forearm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds winged needles well • A last resort when no other means are available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painful insertion or infiltration damage possible because of many nerve endings in area • High risk of infiltration in this area
Basilic vein Runs along ulnar side of forearm and upper arm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes large-gauge needle easily • Straight, strong vein suitable for large-gauge venipuncture devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncomfortable position for patient during insertion • Painful insertion because the needle penetrates dermal layer of skin, where nerve endings are located • Tendency of vein to roll during insertion
Antecubital veins Located in antecubital fossa (median cephalic, on radial side; median basilic, on ulnar side; median cubital, which rises in front of elbow joint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large veins; facilitate drawing blood • Often visible or palpable in children when other veins won't dilate • May be used in an emergency or as a last resort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to splint elbow area with armboard • Veins may be small and scarred if blood has been drawn frequently from this site
Dorsal venous network Located on dorsal portion of foot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for infants and toddlers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to see or find vein if edema is present • Difficult to walk with device in place • Increased risk of deep vein thrombosis 



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