

The Paracentesis Competency Assessment Tool (PCAT) – Therapeutic Paracentesis

Resident Name:	Evaluator:	Date:	
I. Paracentesis Checklist			
Procedure Step	Yes	No	Item clarification
1. <i>Obtains informed consent^a</i>	Y	N	Appropriately names risks (ex: infection, bleeding, abdominal organ puncture, death) and benefits: (ex: diagnosis and/or therapeutic relief)
2. <i>Washes hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer</i>	Y	N	
3. Positions patient appropriately	Y	N	Supine or lateral decubitus, head of bed elevated
4. Inspects abdominal wall	Y	N	Notes location of scars, cellulitis, and collateral veins
5. Percusses the abdomen	Y	N	Notes tympany vs dullness
6. Palpates the abdomen and selects site	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palpates and notes lateral border of rectus and chooses site 2 fingerbreadths superior and 2 fingerbreadths medial to anterior iliac spine • Unless contraindicated, chooses LLQ.
7. Confirms appropriateness of site using ultrasound	Y	N	Uses low frequency probe to confirm: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of ascites • Lack of nearby bowel
8. Marks site with needle cap or sterile marker	Y	N	
9. Calls “time out”	Y	N	Confirms patient ID, procedure, and site by all members of team doing procedure and no allergy to local anesthetic
10. Washes hands again with soap and water	Y	N	
11. Puts on cap and mask, and then sterile gloves	Y	N	Optional: Applies sterile or non-sterile gown
12. <i>Cleans area with sterilizing solution (chlorhexidine/betadine)</i>	Y	N	Must dispose of swab appropriately without contaminating sterile environment

13.Drapes the area	Y	N	
14.Sets up the kit (Yueh catheter)	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately draws lidocaine and ensures no air in syringe • Attaches Yueh catheter or paracentesis needle to 35 CC syringe • Has assistant confirm proper tubing set up
15.Uses lidocaine to anesthetize the skin (wheal)	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses smaller bore needle • Constantly aspirates before injecting
16.Anesthetizes deeper	Y	N	If no peritoneal fluid obtained from initial anesthetic, switches to larger bore needle to anesthetize the peritoneum
17. Using the Yueh catheter/needle complex enters the skin while aspirating	Y	N	
18. <i>Continues advancing the catheter/needle complex while aspirating until peritoneal fluid is aspirated</i>	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stops advancing the needle once peritoneal fluid is obtained • Pulls off enough fluid for diagnostic studies
19.Advances the catheter over the needle until it is flush with the skin and withdraws the needle syringe unit	Y	N	
20.Maintains sterile technique	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not contaminate sterile field with unsterile equipment • Keeps gloved hands sterile up until tubing is accessed
21.Connects the tubing to a 1 liter vacuum container or the vacuum apparatus connected to low wall suction	Y	N	
22.Withdraws catheter when drainage stops	Y	N	
23.Places dressing	Y	N	
24.Positions the patient with area up	Y	N	
25.Send fluid for diagnostic studies	Y	N	Always sends for cell count
26.Cleans up	Y	N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caps needles by sliding needle into cap on table using one hand, secures cap in place only once sure it is over the needle or • Directly disposes of uncapped needles in sharps container

II. Global Skills Assessment Scale				
1	2	3	4	
<p>Novice Early stage of learning where skills are learned through imitation and/or trial and error; unsure of next steps</p>	<p>Advanced Beginner Skills have become habitual and the movements can be performed with some confidence, but lack refinement</p>	<p>Able A solid performer as indicated by quick, accurate and highly coordinated performance</p>	<p>Proficient Skills are well developed and the individual can modify movement patterns to address difficult or new situations</p>	
III. Entrustment Scale: At what level do you entrust the resident to perform paracentesis?				
1	2	3	4	5
<p>Critical Deficiencies: Can observe the procedure only, needs re-training before performing on live patients</p>	<p>Able to perform the procedure under direct supervision</p>	<p>Able to perform the procedure with supervision available in minutes (i.e. operates smoothly, but may need to call for help)</p>	<p>Able to perform the procedure without any supervision</p>	<p>Able to supervise or instruct others learning the procedure</p>
<p>Final Score: _____ Checklist _____ Global _____ Entrustment</p>				
<p>[For Reference: Minimum Passing Standard: <u>19/26</u> Checklist <u>2</u> Global <u>2</u> Entrustment Unsupervised Practice Standard: <u>23/26</u> Checklist <u>3</u> Global <u>4</u> Entrustment]</p>				

^aItems in italics denote essential steps that if not done result in automatic fail