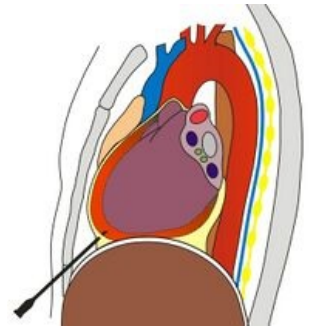


# Pericardiocentesis

It is a **puncture of pericardium** to evacuate pericardial fluid.

- In hospital conditions, it is performed under echocardiographic control, which minimizes complications and allows subsequent insertion of a thin drain.
- In the field, the pericardium is punctured so-called **blindly**.
  - The patient assumes a semi-sitting position.
  - The epidural needle is inserted to the left of the xiphoid process at an angle of about 45 ° below the ribs towards the left nipple.
  - With constant aspirations, we approach the heart.
  - We are waiting for a faint thud signaling the penetration of the pericardium and the subsequent aspiration of blood/serous fluid/air.
  - After aspiration of blood, a small amount of blood is sprayed out and monitored for clotting. Blood from the pericardial space does not contain fibrin and therefore does not clot.
  - Exercise carries the risk of pericardial and cardiac laceration or injuries coronary artery or lungs.
  - **Lethality of blind pericardiocentesis** is around **20%**.



Pericardiocentesis

## Links

### Related articles

- Pericardiocentesis (pediatrics)
- Pericard surgery
- Cardiac tamponade
- Pericarditis
- Heart

### References

### Sources

- VANĚK, Ivan, et al. *Cardiovascular Surgery*. 1. edition. Praha : Karolinum, 2003. 236 pp. ISBN 8024605236.
- VAVRUŠOVÁ, B – DOČKALOVÁ, P – PUDIL, J. *Tupá poranění srdce* [online]. ©2006. [cit. 2010-09-20]. <[http://www.zachranarivlockari.wz.cz/download/tupe\\_srdce.pdf](http://www.zachranarivlockari.wz.cz/download/tupe_srdce.pdf)>.