



Standard Operating Procedures
Tier 1 Veterinary Medical Center
Abdominocentesis/ Thoracocentesis

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Part	Abdominocentesis/ Thoracocentesis	Issued by	Administration-Emergency/ ICU Department
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Introduction:

It is the standard operating procedure to provide emergency care and procedures for all patients in need coming to the hospital.

The procedures for Abdominocentesis/ Thoracocentesis is as follows:

General Requirements:

Equipment needed:

**Abdominocentesis and Thoracocentesis
Setup and Procedure**

Equipment needed:

- 3-way stopcock or bivalve
- 30 – 60mL syringe depending on size of the patient
- 1 extension set if aspirating air, 2 if aspirating fluid
- Catheters/Needles (ask the doctor for size and type and have extras available in case the doctor is tapping multiple spots or has to make more than one attempt.)
- 1 lavender top tube and 1 additive-free white top tube and a 22g needle for collecting fluid samples, and culturette
- A blue collection bowl if aspirating fluid, and a small piece of 1-inch tape
- Mayo stand
- Sterile gloves for the doctor
- Clippers
- Scrub and Alcohol
- Ask doctor about drugs for a local block and/or sedation



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Once you have gathered all the equipment you are ready to setup your collection system:

1. Attach a syringe to one port of the 3-way stopcock or bi-valve and additional syringe to allow air to escape.
2. Keep an extension set sterile and ready to open when the DVM asks for it. Once the DVM has inserted a needle/catheter into the area of interest, they will ask you to open the extension set. This extension set will be attached to the catheter/needle. The DVM will hand you the other end to attach to the stopcock. Attached this portion of the extension set directly across from the port attached to the syringe in step 1.
3. If aspirating fluid, attach another extension set to the middle port of the 3-way stopcock.
4. Using a small piece of tabbed tape, attach the end of the extension set to the inside of the blue collection bowl.

Once you have all your equipment ready and your collection system setup, you are ready to prep your patient. Sometimes the doctor will perform this step and sometimes they will ask the technician or assistant to do it. If you are asked to prep the patient:

1. Ask the doctor where they would like you to shave, and shave that spot.
2. Aseptically prep the area with Chlorhexidine scrub and alcohol.

The doctor is now ready to perform the abdomino- or thoracocentesis and may ask you to assist in the following manner:

1. Make sure the 3-way stopcock is off to the patient.
2. Turn the 3-way stopcock off to the middle port and begin aspirating air or fluid by pulling back on the plunger of the syringe.
3. Once you have filled the syringe, turn the 3-way stopcock off to the patient.
4. If you are aspirating fluid, remove the syringe and place a needle on the end to place fluid samples into the lavender top and red top tubes. Reattach the syringe to the 3-way stopcock. This will be the only time you remove the syringe from the 3-way stopcock.
5. With the 3-way stopcock off to the patient, push the air or fluid out the syringe and through the middle port of the 3-way stopcock.
6. Turn the 3-way stopcock off to the middle port and begin aspirating again.
7. Continue repeating steps 2,3,5 and 6 until you get negative pressure.



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8. Once you get negative pressure notify the doctor so they can readjust the needle or decide to stop.
9. Make sure you keep track of the number of times you fill the syringe so you can quantify the amount of air or fluid you collected. Use a graduated cylinder to quantify the amount of fluid that was collected in the blue collection bowl.