

# Using ultrasound to guide placement of a tube in a vein in the arm or leg

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<b>Registration date</b> 05/01/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 27/01/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Peripheral intravenous access is required to insert a tube into a vein to administer fluids or medication.

Peripheral intravenous access is a common clinical procedure, and difficult peripheral intravenous access is a common problem in caring for emergency and critically ill patients. During difficult intravenous access in clinical practice, the timeliness of immediate treatment is affected, endangering the patient's safety. Repeated injections increase pressure on nursing staff and consume more nursing hours and medical costs. Accordingly, this study aimed to test the effect of ultrasound guidance in difficult peripheral intravenous access.

### Who can participate?

Adult volunteers aged 20 years or above, with difficult intravenous access.

### What does the study involve?

This study was a randomized crossover study. Each individual underwent ultrasound-guided and traditional blind peripheral intravenous access in alternation. Individuals in Group A underwent ultrasound-guided intravenous cannulation in the right arm and traditional intravenous cannulation in the left arm, while individuals in Group B underwent traditional intravenous cannulation in the right arm and ultrasound-guided intravenous cannulation in the left arm. All participants receive the same outcome measurements, including Overall success rate, First attempt success rate, Number of attempts, Procedure time, Side effect incidence rate.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The possible benefits are the ultrasound-guided peripheral intravenous access protocol can improve the first attempt success rate, overall success rate and reduce the number of attempts. The possible risks include injection pain and bleeding, which are the same to the control group of traditional blind peripheral intravenous access.

### Where is the study run from?

Chi-Mei medical center (Taiwan)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?  
November 2017 to November 2019

Who is funding the study?  
Taiwan nurses association

Who is the main contact?  
Chia-Chi Kuo, kuochiachi63@gmail.com

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal investigator

### Contact name

Miss Chia-Chi Kuo

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## Additional identifiers

### Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

### ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

Nil known

### Protocol serial number

Nil known

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Ultrasound-guided peripheral intravenous access in adults: a randomized crossover controlled trial

### Study objectives

Ultrasound guidance could significantly improve the first attempt success rate, overall success rate, and reduce the number of attempts in difficult peripheral intravenous access.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 02/01/2018, Institutional review board of Chi-Mei medical center (No.901, Zhonghua Rd., Yongkang Dist., Tainan City 710, Taiwan; +886(6)2812811#53720; csr2930@mail.chimei.org.tw), ref: 10612-002.

### **Study design**

Interventional randomized crossover study

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Effects of ultrasound-guided peripheral intravenous access protocol on first attempt success rate, overall success rate, and number of attempts in patients with difficult peripheral intravenous access.

### **Interventions**

This study was a non-blinded, randomized crossover study. Convenient sampling was applied to enroll 36 adult volunteers with the problem of difficult peripheral intravenous access (with a score of 3 or 4 for difficult intravenous access, i.e. with invisible but palpable veins or invisible and impalpable veins) in a medical center in southern Taiwan. The random sequence was generated by block randomization and was concealed in a sealed envelope. Each individual underwent ultrasound-guided and traditional blind peripheral intravenous access in alternation. Ultrasound-guided peripheral intravenous access was performed using a high-frequency 12 MHz ultrasound probe, and a two-person, dynamic, and longitudinal and transversal scanning method was adopted to help locate the position, direction, and depth of the peripheral vein.

### **Intervention Type**

Procedure/Surgery

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Data collected during the injection process:

1. First attempt success rate
2. Overall success rate
3. Number of attempts

### **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Data collected during the injection process:

1. Procedure time
2. Side effect incidence rate

**Completion date**

30/11/2019

## Eligibility

**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Volunteers with difficult intravenous access: This study used the difficult intravenous access score (Benkhadra et al., 2012) to evaluate the degree of difficult intravenous access of the participants, with a score of 1 indicating visible and palpable veins, a score of 2 indicating visible but impalpable veins, a score of 3 indicating invisible but palpable veins, and a score of 4 indicating invisible and impalpable veins. Those with an evaluation score result of 3 or 4 were classified as having difficult intravenous access
2. Adults aged over 20 years, without visual, hearing, or mental disorders
3. Those who were alert and conscious and can communicate in Mandarin or Taiwanese
4. Those who are literate with at least an elementary education

**Participant type(s)**

Healthy volunteer

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

36

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Peripheral neurovascular disorders
2. Peripheral local tissue inflammatory diseases
3. Contraindications of peripheral intravenous access

**Date of first enrolment**

15/12/2018

**Date of final enrolment**

30/11/2019

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

Taiwan

**Study participating centre**

**Chi-Mei medical center**  
No.901, Zhonghua Rd.  
Yongkang Dist.  
Tainan City  
Taiwan  
710

## Sponsor information

### Organisation

Taiwan Nurses Association

### ROR

<https://ror.org/02px13636>

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Other

### Funder Name

Taiwan Nurses Association

### Alternative Name(s)

, TWNA

### Funding Body Type

Private sector organisation

### Funding Body Subtype

Associations and societies (private and public)

### Location

Taiwan

## Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The current data sharing plans for this study are unknown and will be available at a later date

### IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>		20/01/2025	27/01/2025	Yes	No