



## The Impossible Space: Lumbar Punctures

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### ✓ Rapid Procedure Review

1. Position the patient in either the seated or lateral recumbent position.
2. Assess landmarks for ideal point of entry.
3. Open lumbar puncture kit, ensure all necessary equipment is present, and set up collection tubes in numerical order.
4. Sterile preparation of the L3/L4 and L4/L5 Interspaces.
5. Anesthetize the intended procedure entry point, starting with the skin and then deeper into the tissue in order to form a tract for the spinal needle.
6. Assure patient is comfortable and still in optimal positioning for the procedure.
7. Inset spinal needle with bevel parallel to the spine.
8. Once the needle has entered the dural space, remove the stylet, and an opening pressure may be performed if the patient is in the lateral recumbent position.
9. Collect 1-2cc of fluid in each collecting tube.
10. Replace stylet and remove spinal needle.
11. Place bandage over procedure sight
12. Reposition the patient supine.



Looking for more detailed information on procedural steps, indications, contraindications, pearls, and pitfalls?

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