

PROCEDURE FOR: Swan-Ganz Catheter: Obtaining Mixed Venous Blood

- POLICY:
1. Routine blood work should not be drawn from the PA lumen.
  2. An ABG should be drawn in conjunction with the mixed venous sample.
  3. A registered nurse may obtain venous blood samples from the Swan-Ganz catheter with an MD order.

EQUIPMENT: (2) Arterial Blood Gas Sampling Kits  
(2) 6 cc Syringes  
(2) Bags of Ice

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Observe PA tracing. If wedge tracing, do not obtain blood sample. Balloon must be deflated.

1. Aspiration with the balloon inflated may cause sample to be partially contaminated with arterial blood.

If PA tracing present, proceed.

2. Prepare equipment for obtaining arterial blood gas, either by line draw (as per ABG procedure) or by arterial stick. Mixed venous and arterial blood should be drawn at the same time.
3. Maintain aseptic technique and remove catheter plug from 3-way stopcock at distal port.
4. Insert 6cc syringe into stopcock, open stopcock to syringe, and withdraw 5cc of blood and discard.
5. Expel excess heparin from syringe before inserting into stopcock,
6. Insert heparinize ABG syringe and insert into stopcock and slowly withdraw 3cc of blood.
7. Turn stopcock off to syringe.
8. Place syringe on ice. Send to ABG Lab with Blood Gas Analysis form.
9. Flush PA line by squeezing intraflow valve.

8. Be sure to indicate sample is mixed venous.

PROCEDURE FOR: Swan-Ganz Catheter: Obtaining Mixed Venous Blood

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

10. Flush sideport of stopcock by squeezing intraflow valve. Absorb flush solution with 2 x 2 gauze sponge.

10. Blood remaining in stopcock is an ideal medium for bacterial growth.

11. Replace sterile catheter plug.

12. Observe screen for PA tracing.

APPROVAL: ICU Standards Committee  
Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/83

REVISION DATE: 2/90, 1/93, 1/95, 3/96, 5/97, 6/97, 6/00, 10/03