Ultrasound-Guided Pericardiocentesis

Highland General Hospital
Division of Emergency Ultrasound

Step 1

- Curvilinear Probe
- Probe marker to the patient’s right shoulder
- Adjust probe to find largest pocket of fluid
Step 2: optional

- If effusion very midline, locate the mammary arteries with Linear Probe
**Step 3**

- Ultrasound screen in field of view
- Local Anesthetic
- Low dose etomidate (0.15mg/kg) or another sedative just before entering pericardial sac
- **In-plane** with needle visualization
Step 4

Visualize the **guidewire** to confirm placement
Step 5

- Drain effusion
- Confirm reduction in pericardial effusion and IVC collapse