

**American College of Physicians - Internal Medicine Meeting 2025
New Orleans, LA**

Ultrasound-Guided PICC Line Placement

Faculty Information

Director:

Curtis Mirkes, DO, MACP

Austin Metting, MD, FACP

Megan G. Newman, MD, FACP

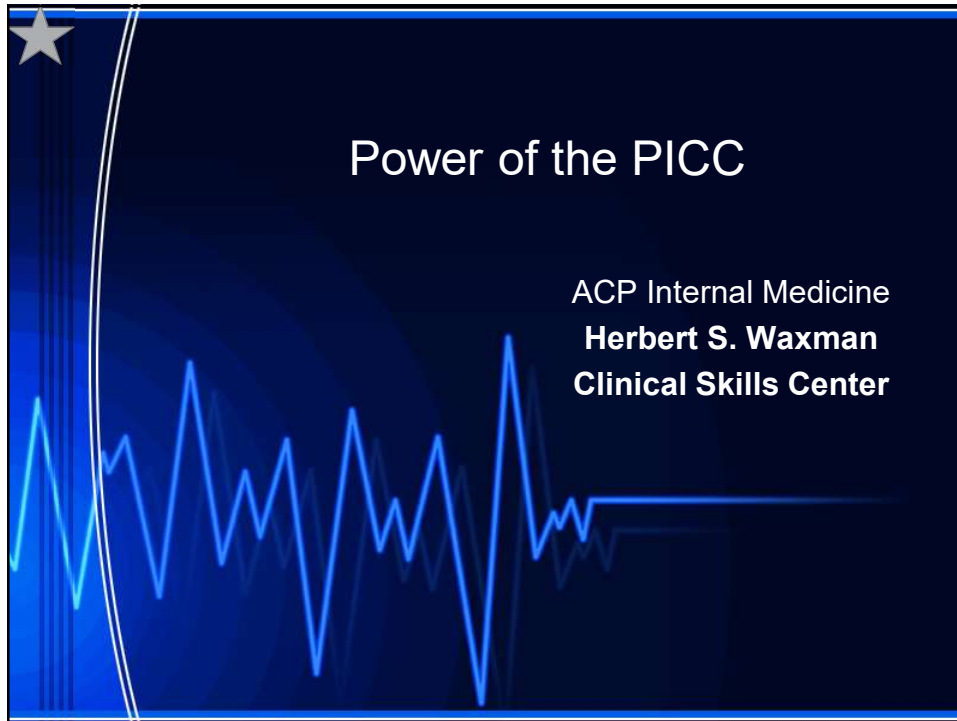
Noah Stratton, DO, FACP

A. Jimmy Widmer, MD, FACP

Posted Date: February 24, 2025

©2025 American College of Physicians. All rights reserved. Reproduction of presentations, or print or electronic material associated with presentations, is prohibited without written permission from the ACP.

Any use of program content, the name of a speaker and/or program title, or the name of ACP without the written consent of ACP is prohibited. For purposes of the preceding sentence, "program content" includes, but is not limited to, oral presentations, audiovisual materials used by speakers, program handouts, and/or summaries of the same. This rule applies before, after, and during the activity

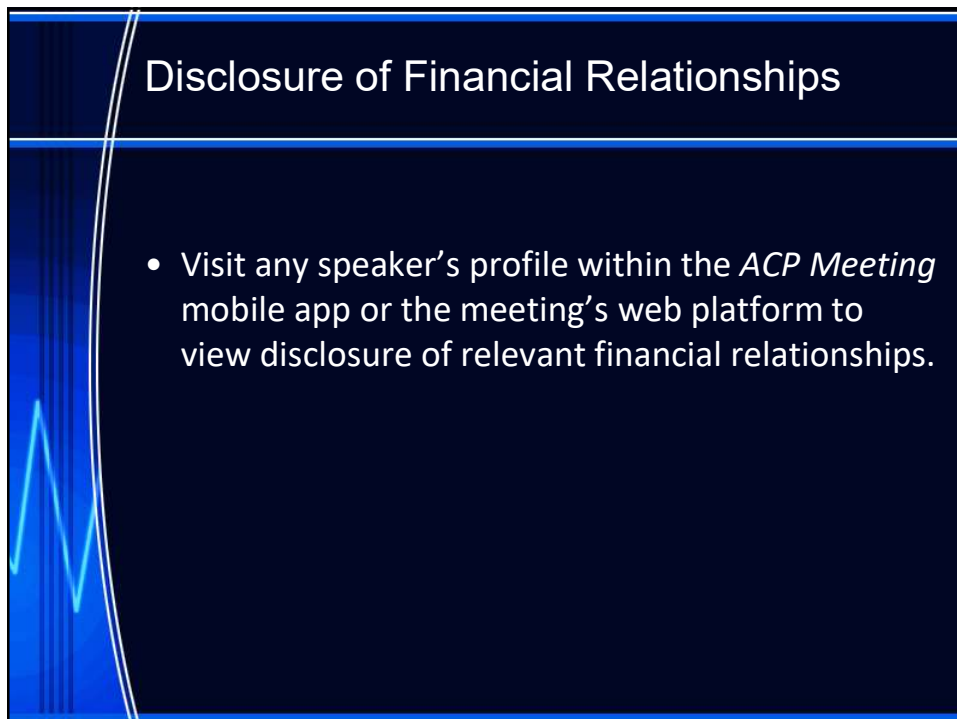


Slide 1 features a dark blue background with a white star in the top left corner. A white curved line on the left side separates the title area from a light blue ECG-style waveform that spans the width of the slide. The title "Power of the PICC" is centered in white text. To the right of the waveform, the text "ACP Internal Medicine", "Herbert S. Waxman", and "Clinical Skills Center" is displayed in white.

Power of the PICC

ACP Internal Medicine
Herbert S. Waxman
Clinical Skills Center

1



Slide 2 features a dark blue background with a white curved line on the left side. A horizontal white line is positioned above the text. The title "Disclosure of Financial Relationships" is centered in white text. Below the title, a single bullet point in white text provides instructions on where to find financial disclosures.

Disclosure of Financial Relationships

- Visit any speaker's profile within the *ACP Meeting* mobile app or the meeting's web platform to view disclosure of relevant financial relationships.

2

Objectives of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC)

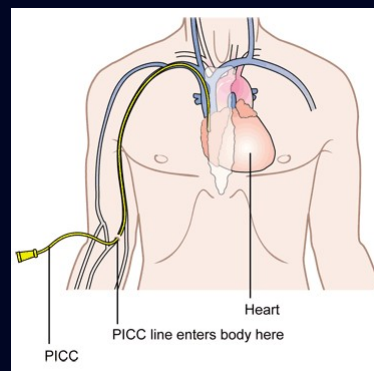
- What is a PICC
- Indications for a PICC
- Complications of PICC placement
- Ultrasound Technology
- Venous Anatomy
- PICC Insertion preparation
- PICC Insertion Techniques

3

What is a PICC

Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters

- Soft flexible catheter constructed of polyurethane or silicone-based material
- Inserted through the peripheral vein of the arm or leg and advanced into the superior or inferior vena cava.
- They may be single or multi-lumen
- They can be indwelling for up to 12 months



4

Indications for a PICC

- Provide stable venous access
 - Patients who require intravenous infusions for > 5 days
 - Patients with multiple complications associated with short peripheral catheters
 - Peripheral catheters do not last 24 hours
 - Few peripheral veins are available
 - Reduced Number of Needle Punctures to Skin
 - Venous Blood Sampling
 - Repeated Administration of Blood or Blood Products
 - Measurement of Central Venous Pressure
- Patients with a need for irritating medications or solutions
 - Long Term Chemotherapy
 - Parenteral Nutrition

5

Contraindications for PICC

- No trained PICC personnel available
- Cannot obtain patient consent
- No X-ray capability to confirm placement
- Emergency access or high volume requirements
- Upper extremity vasculature problems
 - Thrombosed upper extremity
 - Sclerosed or stenotic
- Suspected sepsis prior to final culture results
- Device related infection
- Chronic renal failure and end-stage renal disease
 - The need to preserve peripheral veins for future dialysis fistulas

6

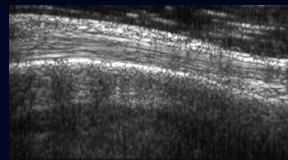
Ultrasound Image Basics

The Ultrasound Appearance of Tissues

Structure	Appearance
Artery	Hypoechoic, pulsatile, non-compressible. Doppler - pulsatile flow
Vein	Hypoechoic, non-pulsatile, compressible. Valsalva effect, doppler - continuous flow
Muscle	Hypoechoic with multiple hyperechoic lines
Tendon	Hyperechoic with anisotropy - bright lines longitudinally or bright dots at right angles fibrillary pattern
Nerve	Variable hypo- or hyperechoic with anisotropy fascicular pattern
Bone	Hyperechoic

7

Ultrasound Images



Hyperechoic
Diaphragm
Tendons
Bone

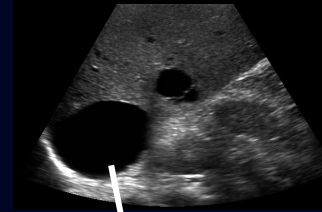
Strong Reflections = White Dots



Isoechoic
Solid organs
Thick fluid

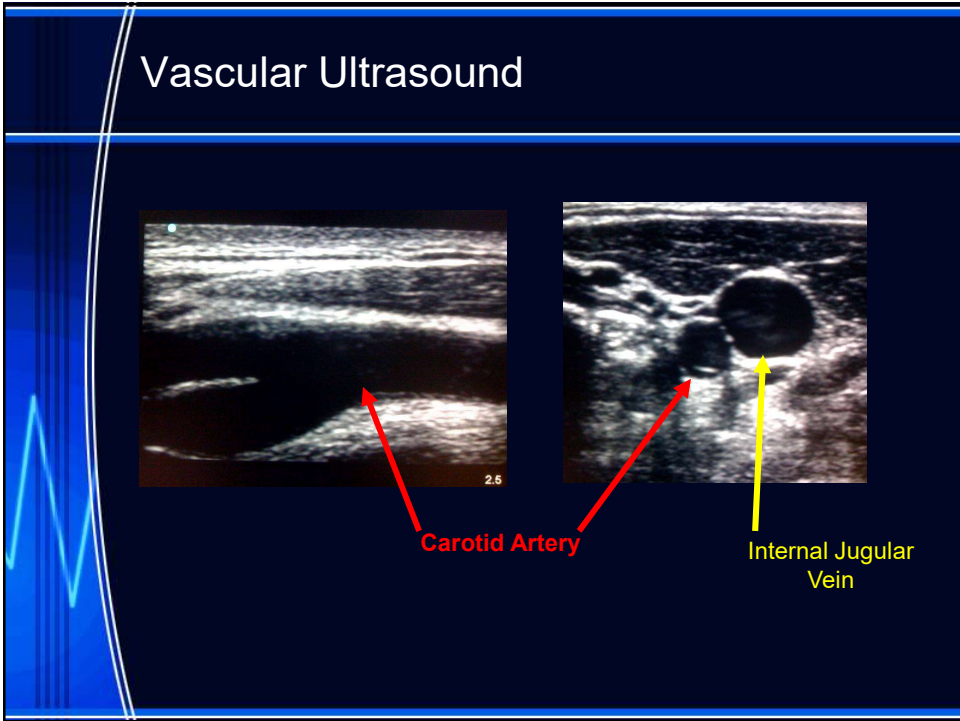
Weaker Reflections = Grey Dots

No Reflections = Black Dots

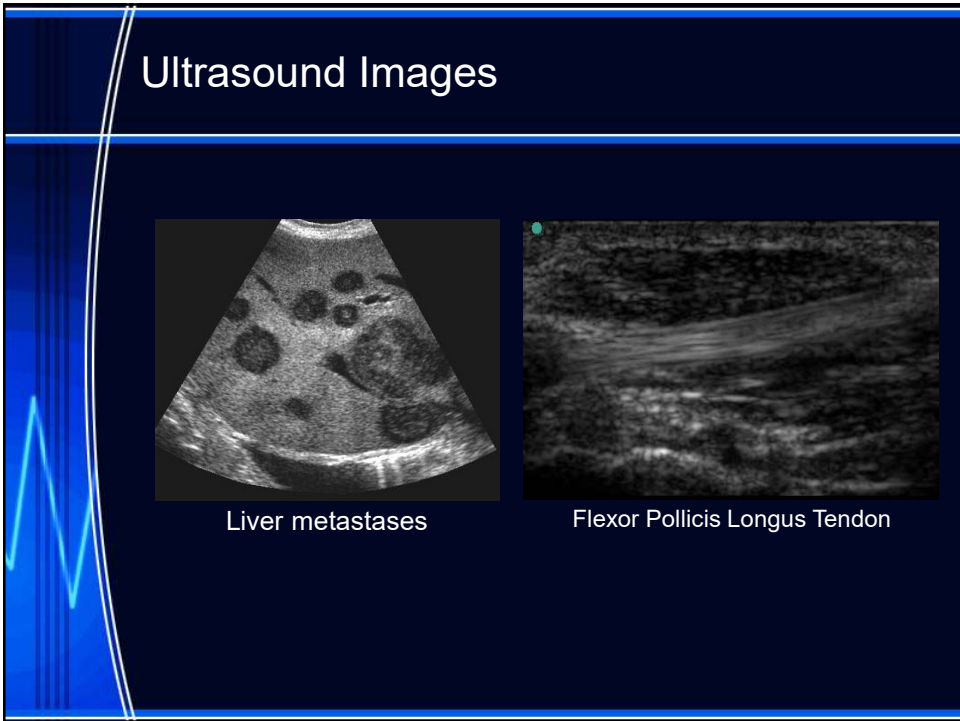


Hypoechoic
Fluid within a cyst
Urine
Blood

8

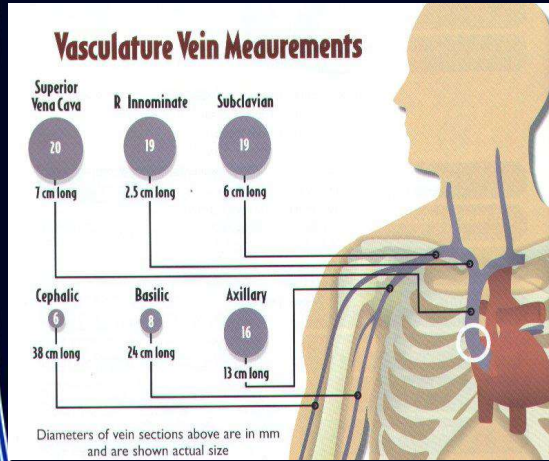


9



10

Veins used for procedures



Venous Blood Flow

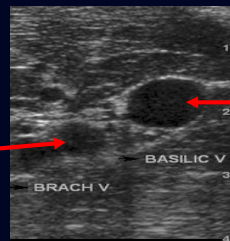
- Cephalic 40 ml/min
- Basilic 95 ml/min
- Axillary 333 ml/min
- Subclavian 800 ml/min
- SVC 2-2.5 l/min

11

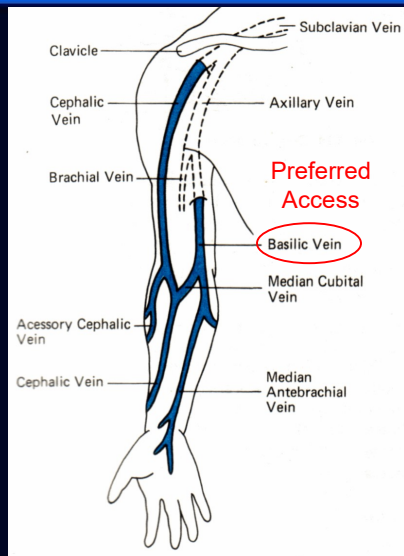
Ultrasound images of the veins



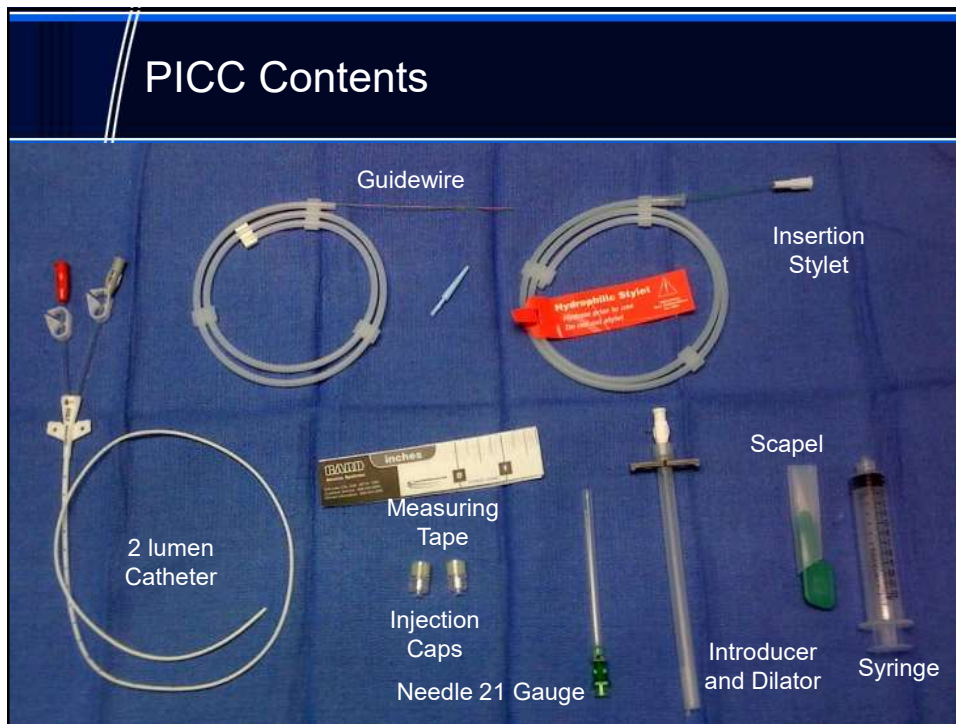
Cephalic Vein



Brachial & Basilic Vein



12



13

Insertion Methods

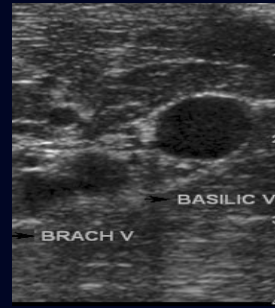
- **Methods of bedside PICC insertion**
 - Peel-away Cannula technique
 - Access is established by inserting the cannula and stylet into a vein
 - The stylet is removed and the catheter inserted through the cannula
 - The cannula is then pulled back and peeled away from the catheter
 - Higher incidence of thrombophlebitis than the modified-Seldinger technique
 - Modified-Seldinger technique
 - A vein is accessed with a regular hypodermic needle
 - A guide wire is threaded into the needle or cannula several centimeters, then the needle or cannula is removed, leaving the guide wire in place
 - A nick is made in the skin beside the guide wire, and an introducer sheath with dilator is inserted over the guide wire
 - The guide wire and dilator are removed, and the catheter is advanced through the introducer sheath, which is then pulled back and peeled away
- Either insertion method requires maximal sterile barrier precautions to reduce the risk of contamination and subsequent catheter-related bloodstream infections. Maximal sterile barrier precautions include the use of a mask, sterile gown, hair cover, sterile gloves, and large sterile drapes

14

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Obtain access with the aid of ultrasound
- Apply tourniquet to arm upper arm
- Sterile technique

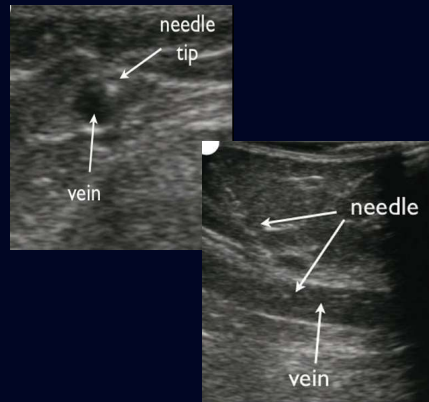


15

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Using the 21 gauge needle
- Sliding needle technique with US



16

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Introduce the guidewire
- Advance guidewire 15-20cm

17

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Release the tourniquet
- Enlarge puncture site with scalpel
- Leaving the guidewire in place remove needle
- Introduce the microintroducer through the puncture site

18

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Introduce the microintroducer through the puncture site
- Make sure constant monitoring of guidewire to ensure embolization of the wire does not occur

19

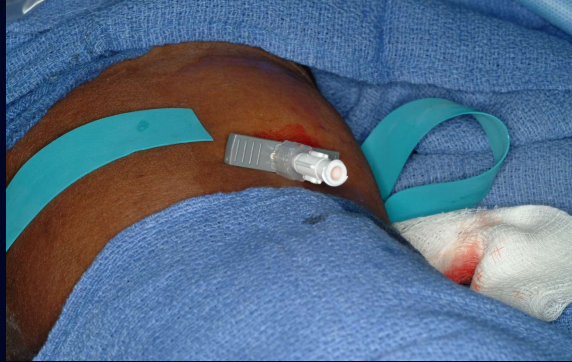
Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Once the microintroducer has been placed remove the guidewire

20

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Rotate the locking collar of dilator and remove dilator from sheath

WARNING : Place finger over sheath to minimize blood loss and risk of air aspiration until cap is placed onto dilator sheath.

- Place a cap onto the microintroducer
- Measure the distance for the PICC catheter

21

Modified-Seldinger Technique

- Measurement of PICC line
 - Numerous techniques
 - Overall you measure from the insertion site to 2nd ICS below the sternal notch.
 - Measure before placement
 - Unsure if insertion site will be the correct site during actual placement
 - Measure during placement
 - After sterile technique the measurement can be done anytime
 - Recommend to measure after vein access has been obtained therefore one knows the actual insertion site

22

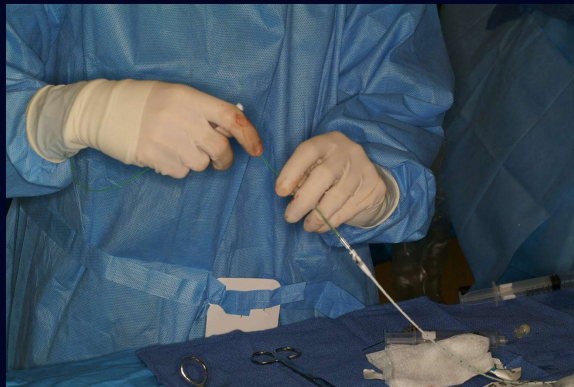
Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Cut the length of the catheter per measurement obtained

23

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Place the stylet into the PICC line for stability
- Ensure the stylet doesn't extend beyond the PICC catheter

24

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Insert the catheter and stylet as a unit
- Advance catheter slowly

25

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Continue to advance catheter slowly until resistance

26

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Stabilize the catheter position by applying pressure to the vein distal to the microintroducer sheath
- Withdraw the microintroducer from insertion site (only .5cm)
- Split the microintroducer sheath and peel it away from the catheter (don't peel into incision site)

27

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Advance catheter with the microintroducer removed until the zero mark is at the skin

28

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Remove the stylet from the catheter

29

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Aspirate for adequate blood return from each port

30

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Flush saline into each of the ports

31

Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Stabilize catheter into position
 - Statlock device
 - Suture

32

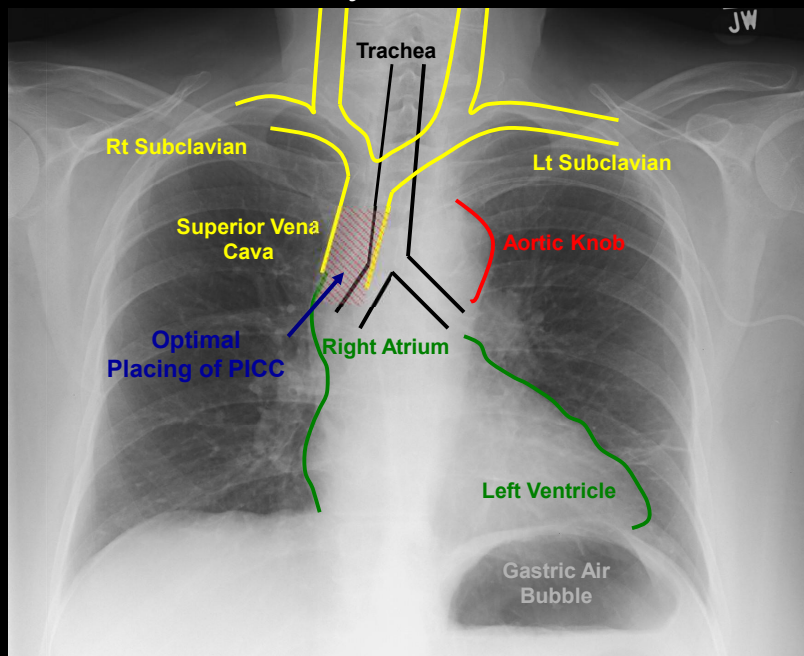
Modified-Seldinger Technique



- Place sterile dressing onto catheter

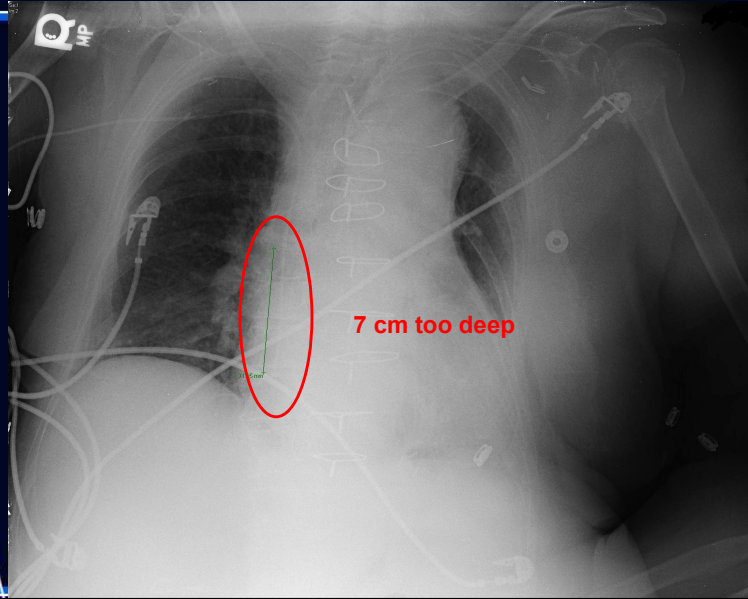
33

Chest X-Ray for Conformation



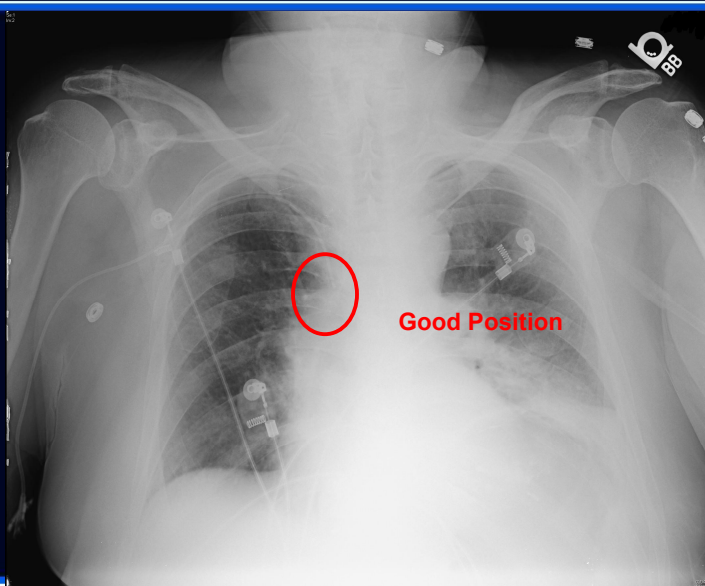
34

Chest X-Ray for PICC Placement

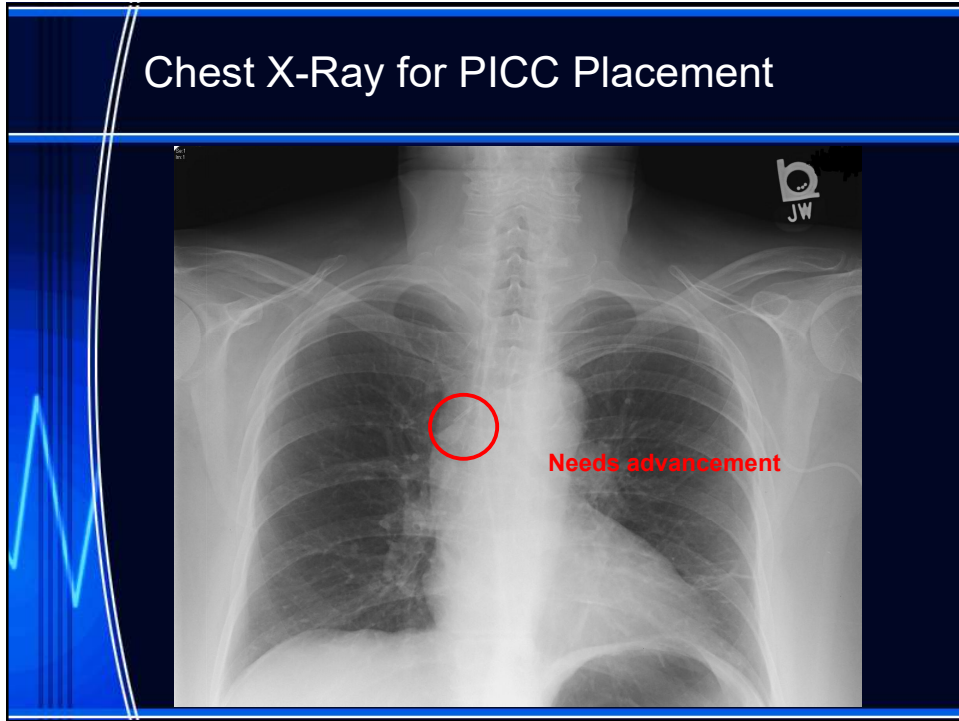


35

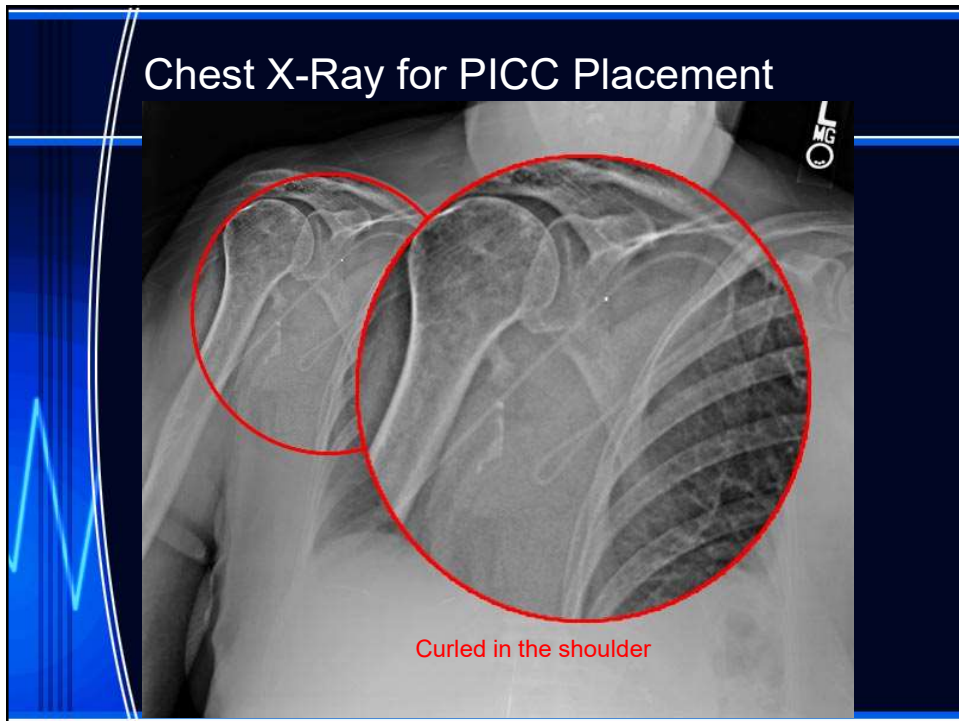
Chest X-Ray for PICC Placement



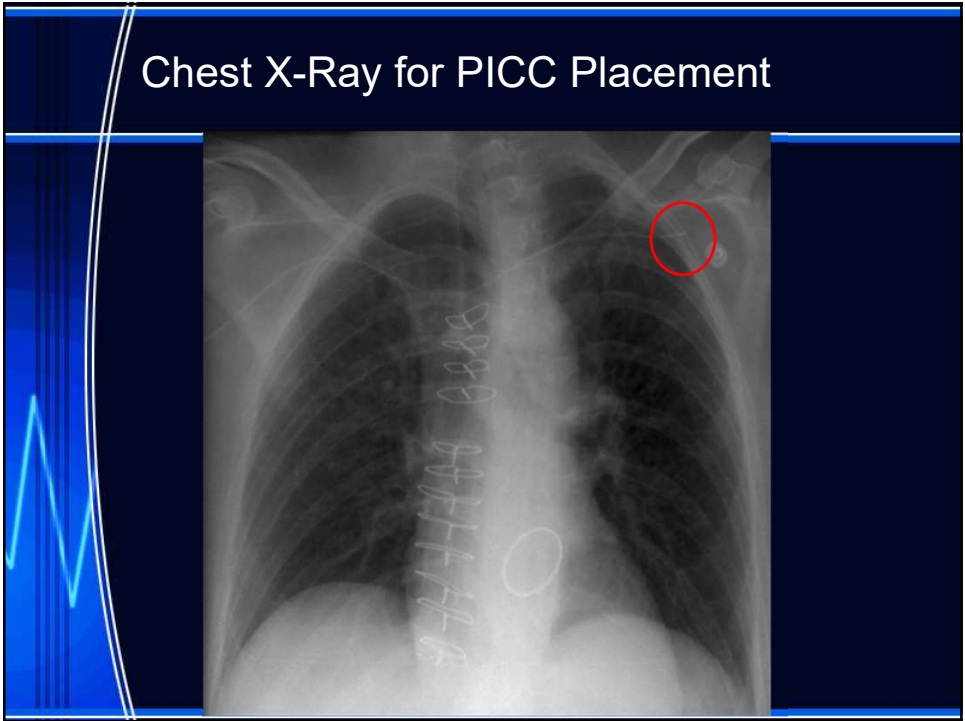
36



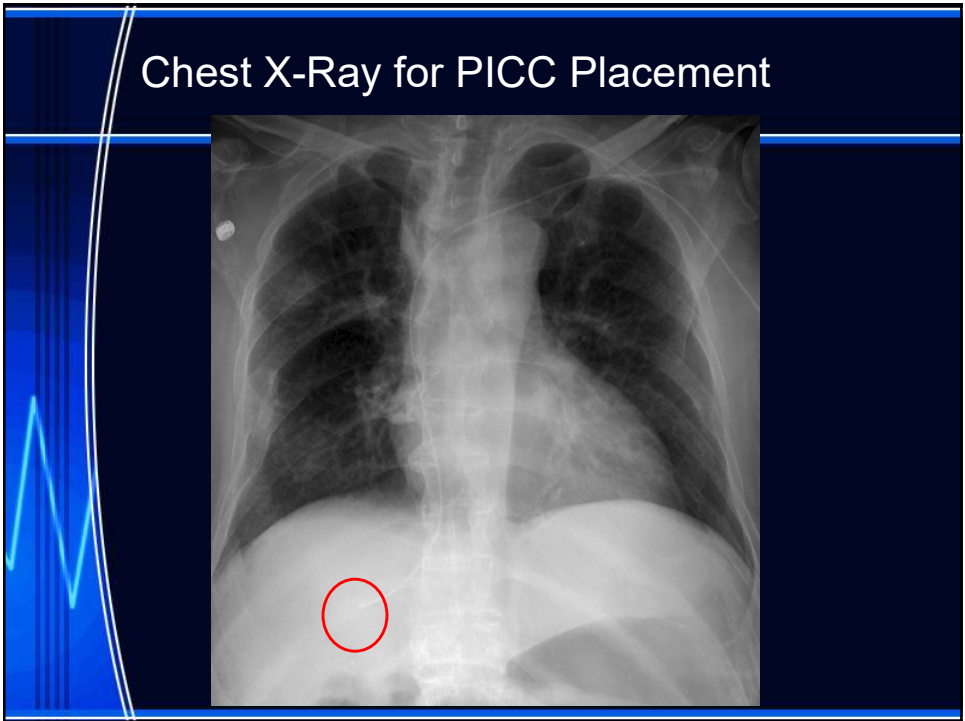
37



38



39



40

Tricks to help with PICC Placement

- External Measurements / Formulas
- Positioning of the patient's head
 - Having patient turn head toward shoulder which PICC is being placed
- Threading the catheter with deep inspiration
- US scanning of neck during placement to monitor for catheter malposition in the Internal Jugular Vein

41

Products available for PICC

- Bard
 - <http://www.bardaccess.com/products/nursing>
- Arrow / Teleflex
 - <http://www.arrowintl.com/products/pa/>
- Cook
 - <http://www.cookmedical.com/ir/familyListingAction.do?family=Venous+Access&subFamily=PICC+Lines>

42