

Intraosseous (I/O) catheter placement procedure in rabbit patients

Equipment list;

- Clippers
- Hibiscrub solution® & swabs
- Hibitane & Surgical spirit ®
- Injectable Local Anaesthetic
- Spinal needles (20G 1.5", 20G 3", 22G 2.5")
- Heparinised saline to flush
- Injection port
- T-extensions set
- Tape to secure
- Bandage material (Softban & Vetwrap)



*** Prepare the site**

- Clip cranial aspect of the stifle (proximal Tibia as shown), or hip (Greater Trochanter of the Femur), and use Hibiscrub® or similar to sterile-clean the site of injection, followed by surgical spirit & Hibitane® (or similar).

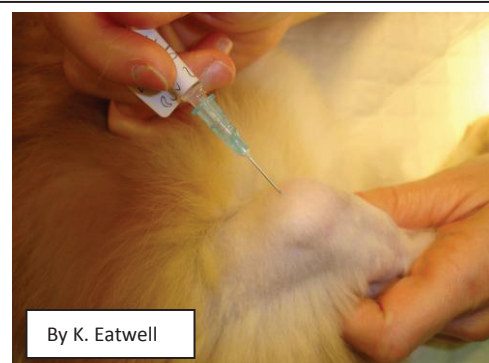


By K. Eatwell

*** Positioning and preparation**

Local anaesthetic can be used to make the area more comfortable particularly in collapsed or partially conscious animals.

- The rabbit should be put in lateral recumbency with the chest slightly raised. An assistant may need to flex the limb into a position that will make the Tibia plateaux of the Tibia (as shown) or the Greater trochanter of the Femur easier to access.

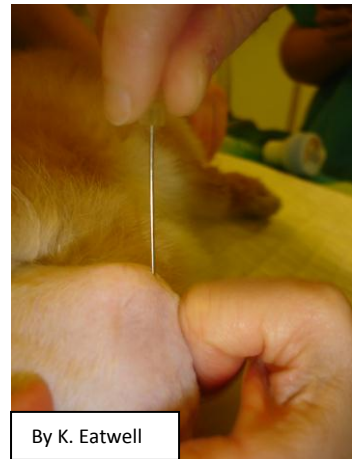


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* Insertion

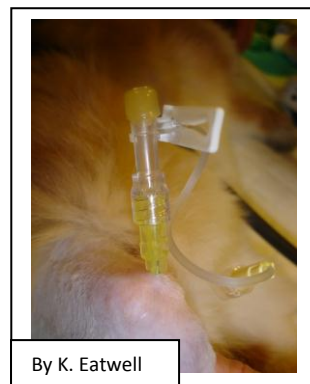
-A spinal needle (e.g. 20G 1.5") should be carefully but firmly inserted into the stifle joint medial and parallel into to the proximal Tibia or Femur. The needle should be driven till its hub is flush with the skin.

- Remove the needle's stylet and gently flush approximately 0.2 ml of heparinised saline to check correct placement. Fluid will leak in subcutaneous tissue if it is not in the right place.



* Securing

- A pre-flushed injection port and T-extension set should be attached and tape (such as zinc oxide) can be used to secure the leg.



* Bandage

- Softban and Vetwrap; a firm bandage should be applied to reduce mobility if in a conscious but collapsed rabbit.

- **NB:** In conscious rabbits, the Femoral IO catheterisation will cause increased immobility, therefore the catheterisation of the Tibia (as shown) may prove more comfortable for the patient and manageable for nursing care.

