

EMBALMING -POINTS OF NEEDLE INSERTION

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BACKGROUND

- ▶ Ancient Egyptians mummified the bodies by removing and draining of fluids from it ,wrapping it calico and letting it dry in the sun.
- ▶ No prominent incisions were made and no invasive techniques were used.
- ▶ However in modern times embalming technique has been developed and predominantly is invasive

Points of needle insertion

- ▶ Usually one of the 3 sites can be used for embalming, namely, Femoral artery,
- ▶ Radial artery or the carotid artery.
- ▶ The most common point of entry is via the Femoral artery due to its large diameter.
- ▶ Prior to insertion of the needles the body is massaged around the bulky muscles like the Gluteus and the limbs are flexed.
- ▶ These processes remove the “rigor mortis” after death.

Femoral artery needle insertion

- ▶ Femoral artery needle entry is the most common and effective method of embalming.
- ▶ An incision is made about four fingers away from the groin on the upper inner quadrant of the thigh exposing the large Femoral artery.
- ▶ A cross nick is made on this artery and a catheter attached.
- ▶ The catheter is then secured with a knotted string.
- ▶ The other 2 needles are inserted on the dorsum of both feet.

Injection process

- ▶ Injection is started and the embalming fluid enters the body via these 3 points of insertion, namely ,Femoral artery and the 2 needles on the dorsum of the feet.
- ▶ The pressure tank filled with embalming fluid pumps the fluid into the body and the body will tend to “blow”.
- ▶ Injection is continued till the body become ‘turgid”.
- ▶ After about 15 minutes the 2 needles from the dorsum of the feet are moved to the dorsum of the palm of hand.

Injection completion

- ▶ The brain is fixed by injecting 50mls formalin with a long wide bored needle via the Superior Orbital Fissure.
- ▶ The amount of embalming fluid per body varies between 50-100L depending on the size of the body.
- ▶ This entire Embalming process takes about 30 min.

Carotid artery needle insertion

- ▶ Carotid artery needle incision is used as an alternative to the Femoral artery incision
- ▶ Used when Femoral artery is severely clotted with blood or damaged.
- ▶ A small incision is made near the clavicle exposing the carotid artery on the left side of the body.
- ▶ This is closer to the heart and facilitates circulation.

Final stage of insertion

- ▶ Once injection is completed , organs must be treated ,namely stomach,intestines and GIT
- ▶ This is done via an insertion of a “trocar” and “aspirator”.
- ▶ Trocar is a long,narrow,hollow metal tube that comes to a pint with a small openings at the end .
- ▶ At the other end ,it is connected to the aspirator that provides the suction.
- ▶ Trocar is inserted near belly button and removes all fluids via suction from the aspirator
- ▶ Trocar removed and the process is then completed.