

Date: 8/22/25

Name: Evelyn Zam

Assignment: Week 2 Vital Signs Assignment

Temporal: A temporal pulse may be taken if the client has had any trauma or injuries to the head. For example, if a client came into the ER for a MVA and had hit his/her head in that process or had any sort of head trauma accessing temporal pulse would be beneficial. The benefits of checking this pulse is to assure the accident did not compromise any blood flow/circulation to the client's head.

Carotid: A carotid pulse is useful to check as an RN when trying to identify the client's heart function. It is an easily accessible point in the body and directly relates to the heart allowing an RN to tell if the heart is pumping and circulating blood adequately.

Brachial: A brachial pulse is useful for checking blood pressure as the cuff should be approximately an inch above the brachial artery. It is also useful if a client has any edema or swelling in their arms to identify that blood flow and circulation is still sufficient.

Apical: Apical pulse also known as the PMI (point of maximal impulse) is a direct measurement of heart beat. There is nothing that affects the outcome of this pulse point as where pulse in extremities can vary due to temperature or how the extremity is positioned.

Radial: A radial pulse is taken, sometimes in assessments, because for one it is an easily accessible point to take pulse and is non-invasive for the client.

Ulnar: An ulnar pulse is oftentimes taken to identify good blood flow to the hand and wrist. The ulnar pulse will allow the nurse to assure that the patient has adequate blood flow to the hands and wrists.

Femoral: Although femoral pulse is not the most often used it is helpful in checking blood flow to the lower extremities as well as in emergent situations. For example, if a client goes into cardiac arrest this point is somewhere that can be checked to identify if the heart has started to beat again as the other pulse sites may be difficult to detect if they are not as strong. The femoral artery is large and can easily be heard with a doppler in this situation.

Popliteal: Popliteal pulse is also nice to identify blood flow to the lower extremities. This point can help identify if there are any blockages or other underlying issues with the client's circulation to the lower body extremities.

Posterior Tibial: This pulse site can be part of a head to toe assessment to make sure that blood flow is completely circulating. It can be helpful for clients who have PVD to identify a baseline for them as to how bad the case may be.

Dorsalis Pedis: This pulse site is used to check dorsal pulses. It is extremely necessary for clients that have diabetes. Clients that have diabetes often have issues with circulation to lower extremities. It can also be useful for a patient who has edema to verify that there is still blood flow circulating despite the amount of fluid build up.