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Nursing Fundamentals

Vital Sign Assessment

- 1. Temporal:** Used to assess pulse in children and is easy to access.
 - **Example:** Little Timmy goes to the doctor and you find it easier to get his temporal pulse.
- 2. Carotid:** Easy access site during emergency events like cardiac arrest or shock.
 - **Example:** Big John is in cardiac arrest and you need to check for a pulse.
- 3. Brachial:** Used to auscultate blood pressure.
 - **Example:** Dangerous Dave goes to get his blood pressure checked and you are using a manual cuff.
- 4. Radial:** Common and easily accessible site that establishes that a patient has peripheral pulse.
 - **Example:** Jolly Joe is not in any danger as of now and you find it easily accessible to palpate.
- 5. Apical:** Used when patient's pulse is irregular.
 - **Example:** Gertrude's pulse is irregular while getting his blood pressure so you use this one.
- 6. Ulnar:** Used to perform an Allen test, another site that is used to test peripheral circulation.
 - **Example:** You need to check a patient's wrist pulse before surgery and you want to be extra cautious.
- 7. Dorsalis Pedis:** Common site used to test peripheral circulation to the foot.
 - **Example:** You want to make sure a patient has peripheral circulation to their foot.
- 8. Posterior Tibial:** Another site used to test peripheral circulation to the foot.
 - **Example:** You use this site instead of dorsalis pedis to test peripheral circulation.
- 9. Femoral:** Another site used to test pulse during shock or cardiac arrest and circulation status to the leg.
 - **Example:** Someone with a severe neck laceration is in cardiac arrest so you use this spot instead.
- 10. Popliteal:** This site tests circulation to the patient's lower leg
 - **Example:** Someone with a leg injury you want to make sure they have circulation so you use this.