

Lumbar puncture checklist

What do you need:

- Signed consent
- A credentialed supervisor
- Time-out form—don't forget to do a time-out before the procedure
- Lumbar puncture kit
- Sterile gloves for all parties involved in correct sizes
- Extra needles appropriately sized for the patient (estimates below)
 - 1.5 <1 yr
 - 2.5 1 yr-school age
 - 3.5 older kids/adolescents
- Patient Labels
- Printed lab requisition forms. If LP is off unit, have RN task off tests
- Normal head imaging for those without open fontanelles (not infants)
 - If MRI done prior to LP, call radiologist to confirm normal. Radiology tech can help
- LPs can cause leptomeningeal enhancement and other irregularities on MRI. Prioritize MRI before LP if able (discuss with attending if unsure which to do first as in some cases it is more important to get the fluid immediately)

CSF testing:

- Collaborate with subspecialists before doing the tap to prioritize testing on the CSF
- Order the testing
- Call the lab and ask how much CSF is needed. Collect at least 0.5mL extra if able!
- Know if you need an opening pressure
- Bring patient labels with you to put on tubes
- Put tubes on ice if needed (ex. Lactate)
- Put lab requisitions with samples. Make sure RN tasked off the samples
 - if not enough fluid for all testing, discuss with attending, then tell lab what should be prioritized
- Walk the fluid down with the appropriate labels yourself to ensure it gets to the right place
 - Never put CSF in the pneumatic tubes