DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Needle and finger thoracostomy

Emergency decompression of a tension pneumothorax by needle thoracocentesis or, in the ventilated patient, by simple (finger) thoracostomy, as a bridge to chest drain insertion.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 3 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
  Treat a suspected tension pneumothorax on clinical grounds; do not delay decompression for imaging
- [ ] DURING
  Stay on the upper border of the rib to avoid the neurovascular bundle
- [ ] AFTER
  Follow every decompression with a chest drain
  Needle and finger thoracostomy are temporary measures only.

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.