

Ultrasound-guided pericardiocentesis - cadaver prep:

The pericardial effusion is prepared by making an incision just lateral to the left border of the sternum in the fourth intercostal space. The incision is carried laterally 5–10 cm depending on the build of the patient. The parietal pleura get opened and the right ventricle is identified. A purse–string suturing technique is used to secure a 14F catheter tube that was introduced into the pericardial sac. At this time, the chest wall is closed and red-dyed fluid is injected into the pericardial sac. The red-dyed fluid in this model is a one-part to three-part mixture of ultrasound gel and normal saline fluid. At this point, the cadaver is adequately prepped for an educational session.

Reference:

Hoyer R, Means R, Robertson J, et al. Ultrasound-guided procedures in medical education: a fresh look at cadavers. *Intern Emerg Med.* 2016;11(3):431-6.