

# Ultrasound Guided Paracentesis



**Step 1:** Position the phased array or curvilinear ultrasound probe in the left lower quadrant



**Step 2:** Visualize free intraperitoneal fluid (black) and floating loops of bowels



**Step 3:** Puncture the skin with an 18 gauge needle to allow passage of the Caldwell needle



**Step 4:** Apply lateral traction to skin while introducing Caldwell needle through insertion site

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**Step 5:** Release lateral traction after skin punctured to create Z-track and advance Caldwell needle with negative aspiration force on syringe



**Step 6:** Disconnect syringe, remove needle and advance outer catheter of Caldwell needle when fluid visualized in chamber of syringe



**Step 7:** Attach extension tubing to Caldwell needle



**Step 8:** Connect other end of extension tubing to vactainer using 18 gauge needle