

# The Use of EZ-IO to Gain Vascular Access in the 669 Search and Rescue Unit

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Intraosseous (IO) access is a possible route for fluid and drug administration to pre-hospital and emergency department patients in urgent cases. It is implemented in scenarios in which intravenous (IV) access is not feasible. There are several devices used for IO access, both manual and semi-automatic. EZ-IO is a semi-automatic drill with various size IO needles. Data on the use of this device show it to be safe and effective. EZ-IO has been in use in the 669 search and rescue unit since 2017.

**Methods:** Our goal was to describe the cases in which this device was used and learn from them.

**Results:** To date, physicians and paramedics in the unit have used EZ-IO 17 times on 15 different patients. The insertion location in about half of the cases was the tibia, while the humeral head was the entry point in the rest.

**Conclusions:** Our experience supports the use of EZ-IO as an IO access device. It has proved to be effective and easy to use after a short session of instruction and demonstration.

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