


PICK YOUR PURRFECT RIG, TIP, OR BARREL
AKA SYRINGES OR NEEDLES

People who inject drugs (PWID) have individual preferences for needle gauge, length and syringe volume, depending on their individual situation and the substances they are injecting.



STREET CATS YYC

RIGS (SYRINGE & NEEDLE)

- Needle and syringe are connected and do not detach (One piece system) Most commonly used for insulin injections.
- The one piece system offers a "low dead space". The permanently attached needles retain less fluid, residual drugs, blood, and HIV after use. This reduces the probability of HIV transmission if they are shared by people who inject drugs (PWID).
- One piece system is ready to use directly out of the package, and doesn't pose the risk of the tip falling/popping off if not attached properly. Also the small unit makes for ease of manipulation in a one handed injection technique.

STREET CATS YYC

RIG (SYRINGE & NEEDLE)

Needle and syringe are connected and do not detach. (One piece system) Most commonly available in 1cc - 1/2 cc.

TIP (NEEDLE)

Needle tips - various sizes (gauges) - (the higher the number the thinner the needle tip) - higher gauge needles are often preferred by PWID. Lower gauge preferred for intra-muscular injections (i.e. steroids). Needle tips range from 18 gauge to 27 gauge with lengths ranging from 1/2" to 1 1/2".

BARREL (SYRINGE)

Syringes often supplied in 1cc, 3cc, or 5cc smaller syringe barrels are preferred by PWID. Larger are appropriate for injection of anabolic steroids or hormones which may require a greater volume of liquid when dosing.

STREET CATS YYC

THE TIP (NEEDLE)

- Various sizes (gauges) available - (the higher the number the thinner the needle tip) - higher gauge needles are often preferred by PWID because they can be less painful and less likely to result in vein damage. Tips have higher dead space so great for self flagging.
- but always use a fresh one
- Lengths ranging from When the vein is easy to see and feel, using a shorter length is preferred to prevent going through the vein (6-11mm). If there is a lot of scar tissue present, or the vein is deeper a longer tip is often used. Needle length can also be determined on the injection site/vein Medium length (25 mm) needles were preferred when injecting into cubital (i.e. forearm or elbow) veins. Some use 25-mm needles for injecting into the neck. Longer (32 mm) needles are used for injecting into the groin or femoral veins.
- Lower gauge preferred for intra-muscular injections (i.e. steroids). Needle tips range from 16 gauge to 30 gauge (the higher the number the thinner the needle tip). When injecting into muscle, a much longer tip is used (1" - 1 1/2" depending on the size of the person)

STREET CATS YYC

PICK YOUR PURRFECT RIG



STREET CATS YYC

NEEDLE SELECTION

Length Size

Needle Length Selection by Type of Injection

Intradermal Injections	3/8" to 3/4"
Intramuscular Injections	1/2" to 1 1/2"
Subcutaneous Injections	1/2" to 5/8"

Needle Length in Inches

* THIS IMAGE IS TO PROVIDE A VISUAL SIZE

- Length recommendations for intradermal injections - 3/8" to 3/4"
- Length recommendations for intramuscular injections - 7/8" to 1-1/2"
- Length recommendations for subcutaneous injections - 1/2" to 5/8"
- There is overlap between intradermal & subcutaneous injections for 1/2" to 5/8" length needles.
- The deeper the injection, the longer the length of the needle required.
- The shorter the needle length, the less pain or bruising

STREET CATS YYC

NEEDLE SELECTION

Needle Gauge

Needle Gauge Selection by Type of Injection

Intradermal Injections	26 to 28
Subcutaneous Injections	26 to 30
Intramuscular Injections	19 to 27

Gauge Size

30G 29G 28G 27G 26G 25G 24G 23G 22G 21G 20G 19G 18G

- Gauge recommendations for intradermal injections - 26 to 28.
- Gauge recommendations for intramuscular injections - 19 to 27
- Gauge recommendations for subcutaneous injections - 26 to 30
- There is overlap between all three injection types for gauges 26 and 27.
- The higher the gauge, number, the smaller the diameter of the needle.
- The higher the viscosity of the fluid, the lower the gauge size.
- The lower the gauge number, the stronger the needle, resulting in less chance of bending or breaking.
- The higher the gauge number, the less pain or bruising

STREET CATS YYC

BARREL (SYRINGE)

- syringes often supplied in 1cc, 3cc, or 5cc smaller syringe barrels are preferred by PWID, larger are appropriate for injection of anabolic steroids or hormones which may require a greater volume of liquid when dosing. Also when diluting pills more water is often needed for effective dissolving.
- Some PWID combine 2-ml syringes with larger needles from 5- or 10-ml syringes to inject into the groin.
- 1cc barrels may be used with a tip to allow the dead space to flag (blood coming into syringe) without the action of pulling back on the plunger (sometimes call self flagging needles)
- The tips can be screwed on to them or pop on, depending on the brand of syringe a lure lock may be at the tip for screw on method.
- Syringes can also be used for booty-bumping without a tip.

STREET CATS YYC