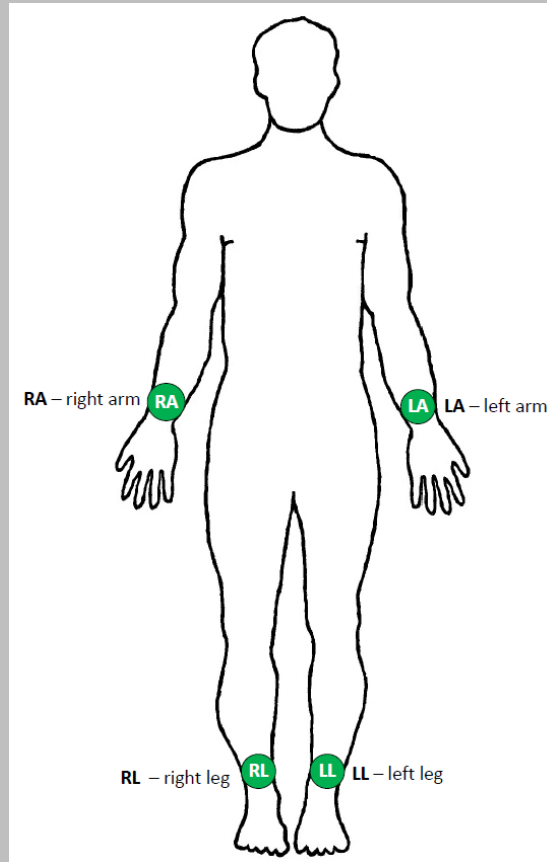
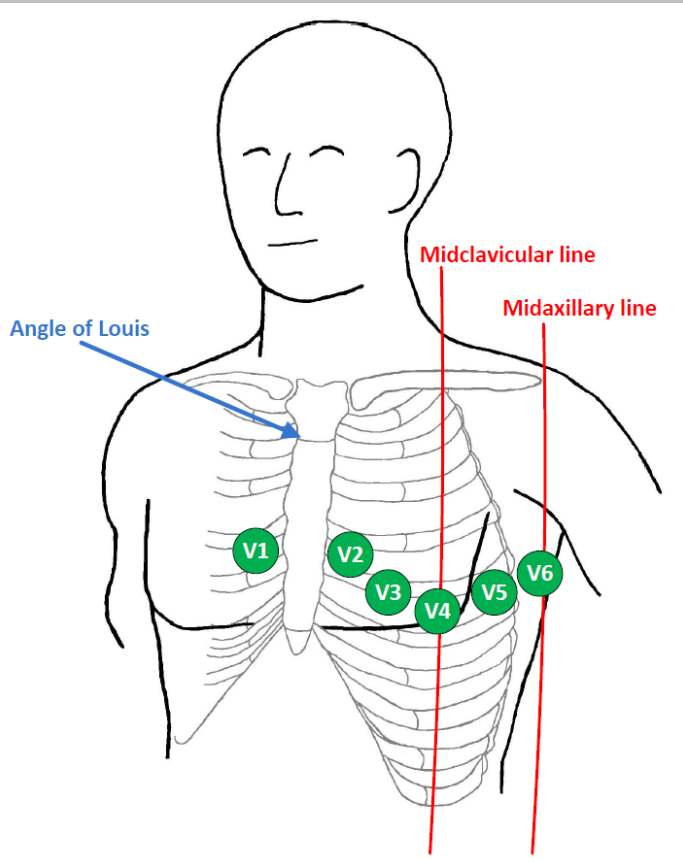


12 LEAD ECG PLACEMENT



Locating the V1 position (fourth intercostal space) is critically important because it is the reference point for locating the placement of the remaining V (chest) leads. To locate the V1 position:

1. place your finger at the notch in the top of the sternum
2. move your finger slowly downward about 1.5 inches (3.8 centimetres) until you feel a slight horizontal ridge or elevation. This is the Angle of Louis where the manubrium joins the body of the sternum
3. locate the second intercostal space on the patient's right side, lateral to and just below the Angle of Louis
4. move your finger down two more intercostal spaces to the fourth intercostal space, which is the V1 position
5. continue locating other positions from V1

Other important considerations:

- when placing electrodes on female patients, always place leads V3 – V6 *under* the breast rather than *on* the breast
- never use the nipples as reference points for locating the electrodes for male or female patients, because nipple locations may vary widely