

**TITLE: Traditional loss-of-resistance technique vs Compuflo-aided technology for placement of a thoracic epidural catheter: a randomized trial of the effect on the success rate**

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***Provide the rationale or power analysis to support the number of subjects proposed to complete this study.***

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Based on the previous studies, we expect the success rate with the TT to be 75%. We expect the success rate for the CT group to be 95% to be clinically meaningfully different from TT (95% success rate in CT vs 75% success rate in TT). To achieve 80% power, with a two-sided type I error rate of 0.05 with these success rates (75% vs 95%), we need 49 subjects per group; 98 patients total. We plan to enroll 120 patients having a conservative attrition rate of 20% given the fact that we are studying the use of a device in a training institution.