



DRILLED TO THE BONE

▶ WHAT IT IS

Vidacare EZ-IO Power Driver

▶ WHAT IT'S USED FOR

Boring into human flesh and bone for quick delivery of drugs and fluids

SOMETIMES A GOOD VEIN IS HARD TO FIND—especially when you're bouncing around in an ambulance or working on a convulsing junkie. That's why many critical-care pros pack the EZ-IO. With a beveled, hollow-tipped needle spinning at 1,000 rpm, the \$295 driver bores through up to 2 mm of shin or shoulder bone in less than two seconds, opening a direct channel to the marrow (keep going till you feel the squish). Once in, medical staffers leave the needle jammed into the bone wall and connect a prong-tipped catheter. (Drugs and fluids reach the body just as quickly via marrow as through a vein.) The pain level of the drilling is about the same as getting a traditional IV. But when the drugs start pumping? Yeah, that's gonna sting. —Bob Parks