The aim of this study was to analyse the characteristics of central venous catheters with brachial-implanted reservoirs and the complications associated with their use over a 4-years period. This observational study was carried out in an onco-haematological day hospital in Spain. Information was collected about 125 catheters inserted in patients requiring intravenous chemotherapy. There were more catheters implanted in women than men and the mean age was 58.6 years. Seventy of the implanted catheters were made of polyurethane and 55 of silicone. Left laterality prevailed with a mean catheter dwell-time of 347.1 days. A total of 164 complications were registered, 124 of them came from blood draws, where the most frequent complication was “inability to withdraw, ability to infuse”. Forty complications were associated with the administration of treatments. Furthermore, there were 21 catheter removals, caused by several other complications different from those mentioned before. Statistically significant differences were found when associating types of catheters, laterality, blood draws and administration of treatments. Results showed how silicone ports would be more appropriate for patients who carry these types or ports than polyurethane because they reduce the number of complications causes by thrombosis.
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