

A new surgical technique for placement of a tunnelled central venous catheter was developed in an attempt to reduce the number of displacements. This involved the creation of a second tunnel at a 90° angle to the original retrograde tunnelled path” Jenkins et al (2015).

Abstract:

PURPOSE: Vascular access has been described in the literature anywhere from the ‘Achilles Heel’ to the ‘Cornerstone’ of haemodialysis. Displacement of a central venous catheter is not an uncommon occurrence. We discuss an alternative method of placement for the tunnelled central venous catheter to prevent displacement in those patients with excess anterior chest wall soft tissue.

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METHODS: A new surgical technique for placement of a tunnelled central venous catheter was developed in an attempt to reduce the number of displacements. This involved the creation of a second tunnel at a 90° angle to the original retrograde tunnelled path.

RESULTS: The authors have currently placed five ‘S-Line’ tunnelled central venous catheters with no reports of displacement or line infection over a period of 18 months.

CONCLUSIONS: The ‘S-Line’ offers a simple, straightforward and most importantly safe method to reduce the incidence of tunnelled right internal jugular central venous catheter displacement.

Reference:

Jenkins, G.W., Kelly, M., Anwar, S. and Ahmed, S.S. (2015) The S-Tunnel for tunnelled dialysis catheter: an alternative approach to the prevention of displacement. The Journal of Vascular Access. September 4th. .

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