Parenteral therapy and complications in patients with intestinal failure

OBJECTIVE: To describe a cohort of patients with intestinal failure (IF) and tunnelled catheters in a regional IF unit, treatment and catheter-related complication rates, and to compare the quality of care with previously published results from specialised IF centres in Denmark.

METHODS: A retrospective chart review of an adult IF patient cohort receiving parenteral therapy through tunnelled catheters in a regional IF unit from 2005 to 2014. Demographics, indication, type and frequency of parenteral therapy, dwell time, cause of removal and complications were recorded.

RESULTS: Parenteral therapy was provided to 78 patients with a median age of 64 (25-86) years. Numbers increased from seven patients in 2005 to 40 in 2014. The cause of IF was surgical complications (33%), cancer (28%), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD, 15%) and other causes (24%). The median duration of parenteral therapy was 453 days (range: 16-3651 days). One hundred and forty-two tunnelled catheters were inserted. The incidence of catheter-related blood stream infection (CRBSI) was 1.51/1000 days (95% CI: 1.20-1.90) and the incidence of thrombosis was 0.10/1000 days (0.04-0.25). Seventy-two episodes of CRBSI occurred with 89 microorganisms cultured, the most common being coagulase-negative Staphylococcus (n = 25, 28%).

CONCLUSION: The rate of CRBSI did not differ from larger centres in Denmark but the rate of thrombotic events was higher than expected. Parenteral therapy can safely and effectively be offered to patients with IF in smaller centres.” Lorentsen et al (2017).
Reference:


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