

To identify clinical incidence, risk factors and treatment of peripherally inserted central venous catheters (PICCs)-related upper extremity venous thrombosis (UEVT) in breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy” Kang et al (2015).

Abstract:

PURPOSE: To identify clinical incidence, risk factors and treatment of peripherally inserted central venous catheters (PICCs)-related upper extremity venous thrombosis (UEVT) in breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

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METHODS: We performed a retrospective cohort study of breast cancer patients with PICC insertion undergoing chemotherapy. PICC-related UEVT was diagnosed by ultrasound. Patient-, catheter- and insertion-related factors were analyzed in univariable and multivariable logistic regression to identify significant independent risk factors for PICC-related UEVT. The incidence and treatment of PICC-related UEVT were also analyzed.

RESULTS: A total of 568 breast cancer patients with PICC undergoing chemotherapy were included, for a total of 54,769 catheter days; 8 patients (1.4%) developed PICC-related UEVT. The median time of developing UEVT was 11 days (range of 3 to 79 days). In multivariable analysis, metastasis ($p = 0.002$) and malposition ($p = 0.013$) were shown to be significant risk factors for PICC-related UEVT. All patients were treated with low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH) and followed until PICCs were removed. None of the patients developed pulmonary embolus.

CONCLUSIONS: Metastasis and malposition were significant risk factors for PICC-related UEVT in breast cancer patients. With early diagnosis and standardized anticoagulant treatment, a better clinical outcome could be achieved. Further prospective and large sample studies are needed.

Reference:

Kang, J., Sun, W., Li, H., Ma, E., Wang, K. and Chen, W. (2015) Peripherally inserted central catheter-related vein thrombosis in breast cancer patients. The Journal of Vascular Access. September 4th. .



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