

To reduce the incidence of CRBSI, prophylactic ethanol lock therapy (ELT) was initiated” Kawano et al (2016).

Abstract:

PURPOSE: Children with intestinal failure (IF) requiring central venous catheters (CVCs) often experience frequent catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSIs), which is a serious and life-threatening complication. To reduce the incidence of CRBSI, prophylactic ethanol lock therapy (ELT) was initiated.

METHODS: Patients with IF received home parenteral nutrition via a silicone tunneled CVC. All of them had received therapeutic ELT from January 2009 (first period) and prophylactic ELT from December 2012 (second period). Prophylactic ELT refers to ethanol lock for 2 h during the monthly hospital visit. We compared the CRBSI rate and number of CVC replacements between both periods.

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RESULTS: Four patients received 19 CVCs for a total of 5623 catheter days. In the first period, there were 12 CRBSIs in 1823 catheter days (rate 6.77 per 1000 catheter days). In the second period, there were 9 CRBSIs in 3800 catheter days (rate 3.13 per 1000 catheter days). Overall, the rate of CVC replacement decreased from 4.92 to 1.72 per 1000 catheter days ($p = 0.04$). No adverse reactions were experienced during ethanol instillation.

CONCLUSION: Monthly prophylactic ELT for IF patients is considered to be a safe and effective modality for reducing the replacement of CVCs due to CRBSIs.

Reference:

Kawano, T., Kaji, T., Onishi, S., Yamada, K., Yamada, W., Nakame, K., Mukai, M. and Ieiri, S. (2016) Efficacy of ethanol locks to reduce the incidence of catheter-related bloodstream infections for home parenteral nutrition pediatric patients: comparison of therapeutic treatment with prophylactic treatment. *Pediatric Surgery International*. July 26th. .

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