



The vascular access team of 1 midwestern hospital used a quality improvement initiative to reduce the occurrence of complications associated with PICCs” Walters and Price (2019).

Abstract:

Peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) are commonly used to access the central venous system. However, central vascular access devices are associated with a risk of complications, which may include infection, thrombosis, occlusion, or malposition. The vascular access team of 1 midwestern hospital used a quality improvement initiative to reduce the occurrence of complications associated with PICCs. A secondary aim was to reduce the number of alteplase (Cathflo Activase; Genentech, South San Francisco, CA) doses administered. After reviewing current evidence, the vascular access team employed the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle to document and implement changes in practice. By using a team initiative to investigate this issue, complication rates decreased and patient satisfaction improved. The thrombosis rate decreased by 67%, occlusions by 75%, and alteplase use by 87%. No infections occurred during this study.

You may also be interested in...

- PICC complications that occur from insertion to withdrawal
- Indications and complications of peripherally inserted central catheters
- Pediatric PICC catheter complications reviewed in this article



Reference:

Walters, B. and Price, C. (2019) Quality Improvement Initiative Reduces the Occurrence of Complications in Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters. *Journal of Infusion Nursing*. 42(1), p.29-36.

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