
Abstract:

The field of vascular access has developed significantly over recent decades. It has been adapted to provide a range of techniques for a range of patients much faster than a full appreciation of the risks involved has developed. Improved governance of vascular access procedures in the UK is needed. This is driven by a deeper understanding of risks such as infectious and thrombotic complications, repeated failures of peripheral intravenous (IV) access leading to poor patient experience and treatment inadequacy, and the increasing emphasis on avoiding healthcare-associated infections. The Vessel Health and Preservation (VHP) protocol, which is used to standardise vascular access practice in the US is being evaluated for adoption in the UK. A comprehensive and inclusive approach should be taken to the vascular access needs of all patients.