Abstract:

BACKGROUND: Central venous access port (CV port) is used for long-term treatment of patients with advanced colorectal cancer. To confirm a standard procedure of CV port implant, we analyzed long-term outcomes and complications of upper arm CV ports.

METHODS: Ninety patients implanted with CV ports in the upper arm between November 2006 and November 2009 were studied retrospectively.

RESULTS: There were no complications from the implanting procedure. Twenty patients (22.2%) had complications, including infection (n=10), occlusion (n=7), thrombosis (n=4) and persistent pain (n=1) (there is some overlapping). Eighteen patients (20%) received surgery for removal of the ports. The median follow-up period was 160 days (range, 30-1,167 days). Univariate and multivariate analysis indicated that patients with a catheter tip above the tracheal bifurcation had a significantly higher risk for complications than patients with a tip below bifurcation.

CONCLUSION: Upper arm CV ports were implanted safely. For long-term use, it is important to place the catheter tip below the tracheal bifurcation.

Reference: