The aims of this review article are to explore the concepts of quality of care in vascular access” Field et al (2019).

Abstract:

Quality improvement initiatives should be aimed to enhance clinical outcomes, service delivery and quality of life for patients. For patients reliant on haemodialysis, vascular access is a lifeline. Survival differences relating to the type of vascular access are evident and many initiatives have focused on increasing absolute rates of arteriovenous fistulas and/or decreasing central venous catheter use. While these have achieved some success quantitatively, the qualitative effects are less obvious. The aims of this review article are to explore the concepts of quality of care in vascular access. There is a paucity of studies into the effects of vascular access on the quality of life of dialysis patients, and where studies have been performed, generalised patient-reported outcome measures have been used. To facilitate the implementation of quality improvement programmes specifically for vascular access requires suitable tools. While existing patient-reported outcome measures may be applicable to vascular access, it is likely that these will require further evaluation, and the development of vascular access-specific patient-reported outcome measures may be required.

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