

PICC insertion for PN at a later stage of ALS, in patients for whom gastrostomy is non-feasible, appears to be a useful option compared to the central venous catheter” Juntas-Morales et al (2016).

Abstract:

**BACKGROUND/AIMS:** To describe the use of peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) at a later stage.

**METHODS:** Twenty-five ALS patients in the later stages of the disease underwent PICC insertion followed by parenteral nutrition (PN). For all of them, gastrostomy was non-feasible. Patients were followed until death and monitored for complications.

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**RESULTS:** PICC insertion was successful in all patients. Three months after insertion, the mean body weight increased by 4.5% ( $p = 0.0057$ ). PICC could be maintained until death in all but 1 patient. The mean delay between insertion and death was 4.5 months, but PN was administered for more than 1 year in 2 patients. Complications were noted in 6 patients: sepsis ( $n = 4$ ), venous thrombosis ( $n = 1$ ), and upper limb oedema ( $n = 1$ ), none of them resulting in death.

**CONCLUSION:** PICC insertion for PN at a later stage of ALS, in patients for whom gastrostomy is non-feasible, appears to be a useful option compared to the central venous catheter.

Reference:

Juntas-Morales, R., Pageot, N., Alphan ery, S. and Camu, W. (2016) The Use of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Patients at a Later Stage. *European Neurology*. 77(1-2), p.87-90.

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