



The purpose of this study was to investigate the safety, efficacy, and subjective satisfaction of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) in terminally ill cancer patients” Park et al (2016).

Abstract:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to investigate the safety, efficacy, and subjective satisfaction of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) in terminally ill cancer patients.

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METHODS: All PICCs were inserted by an interventional radiologist with radiological guidance. We monitored the occurrence of PICC-related complication and evaluated the patient-perceived satisfaction for PICC using semi-structured questionnaire.

RESULTS: A total of 36 terminally ill cancer patients underwent PICC. Three patients had 2 PICC insertions; hence, finally 39 episodes during 829 PICC days were analyzed. All procedures were completed without any procedure-related complication. The median catheter life span was 19.0 days (95 % CI, 14.1-23.9). Thirty-four cases maintained the PICC until the intended time, while the other 5 cases (12.8 %; 6.1/1000 PICC days) were premature PICC removals. Totally 10 complications (25.6 %; 12.3/1000 PICC days) were reported

including premature removals (n = 5), trivial bleedings (n = 3), and thrombophlebitis (n = 2). Patients reported that the procedure was not distressing (42 %), a little distressing (36 %), or distressing (21 %). Of 30 patients who had preserved cognitive function at fifth day, most patients (n = 25, 83 %) reported more comfort although the other 5 patients reported no change (n = 3) or less comfort (n = 2).

CONCLUSIONS: PICCs were safely inserted and showed favorable maintenance rate with acceptable complications. Additionally, most of the patients felt that parenteral access became much comfortable after PICC insertion. When considering the characteristics of terminally ill cancer patients, poor general condition and a limited period of survival, PICC could be a safe and effective method for intravenous access.

Reference:

Park, K., Jun, H.J. and Oh, S.Y. (2016) Safety, efficacy, and patient-perceived satisfaction of peripherally inserted central catheters in terminally ill cancer patients: a prospective multicenter observational study. *Supportive Care in Cancer*. July 26th. .

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