

"We retrospectively analyzed 50 adult patients affected by hematological malignancies who presented a PICC-associated UEDVT. UEDVT treatment was compared in 3 groups" Scamuffa et al (2020).



Abstract:

Peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) for central venous access are frequently used in patients with hematological malignancies. Their use may be complicated by upper extremity deep venous thrombosis (UEDVT). Additionally, hematological patients are frequently thrombocytopenic and the optimal management of UEDVT in patients with thrombocytopenia is challenging and poorly standardized. We retrospectively analyzed 50 adult patients affected by hematological malignancies who presented a PICC-associated UEDVT. UEDVT treatment was compared in 3 groups: patients with a platelet count $\geq 50 \times 10^9/l$ (group 1) who underwent a therapeutic dose of low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) or fondaparinux 7.5 mg; patients with a platelet count $< 50 \times 10^9/l$ and $\geq 30 \times 10^9/l$ (group 2) who were treated with a 50% reduced dose of LMWH or fondaparinux 5 mg; patients with platelets $< 30 \times 10^9/l$ (group 3) were observed and treated with anticoagulants when the count was $> 30 \times 10^9/l$. At the onset of thrombosis, 36 patients were in group 1, 8 in group 2 and 6 in group 3. We observed no hemorrhagic or thrombotic complications related to the anticoagulant therapy; length of treatment was comparable between groups 1 and 2 (51 days group 1 vs 50 days group 2). Reduced doses of LMWH or fondaparinux may represent a safe and effective therapeutic approach in patients with moderate thrombocytopenia ($< 50 \times 10^9/l$ and $\geq 30 \times 10^9/l$) and a PICC-associated UEDVT.

Reference:

Scamuffa, M.C., Morano, S.G., Serrao, A., Bruzzese, A., Stocchi, F., Santoro, C., Vozella, F., Latagliata, R. and Chistolini, A. (2020) PICC-related upper deep venous thrombosis in patients with hematological malignancies. Management of anticoagulant therapy according to the platelet count. Journal of Thrombosis and Thrombolysis. January 24th. doi: 10.1007/s11239-020-02040-8. .

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