Abstract:

AIM: The aim of the study was to develop and implement a protocol for the prevention and treatment of catheter related intraluminal thrombosis in a paediatric intensive care unit.

METHODS: A computerised search was carried out on MEDLINE, through PubMed, using the medical subject heading ‘central venous catheter’, ‘central venous access device’, ‘central venous line’ associated with ‘occlusion’, ‘obstruction’, ‘catheter-related thrombosis’, ‘critically ill patients’ and ‘thrombolytic therapy’. References of reviewed articles were also searched for relevant titles as well as non-randomised controlled trials and series of cases when no information of higher level of evidence was available.

RESULTS: With the information gathered, a protocol for the prevention and treatment of catheter related intraluminal thrombosis was elaborated and those recommendations that best suit our environment were included. They were agreed upon by a broad panel of professionals working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Pharmacy Department.
CONCLUSIONS: Due to the variety of options available for the pharmacotherapeutic management of intraluminal catheter thrombosis, one measure to improve the quality of the therapy and to diminish the variability in the prescription could be the implementation of a protocol as described in this paper.