Given the absence of evidence and the frequent use, it is important to ensure that KVO is used properly in the context of a medical prescription or an organizational protocol” Paquet and Marchionni (2016).

Abstract:
Like many nursing “sacred cows,” the practice of keeping a vein open with a small infusion of intravenous solution does not have clear origins or robust evidence. A survey of Canadian nurses was conducted to determine current practices. More than 50% of respondents reported regularly using a keep-vein-open (KVO) rate between doses of intermittent medication.

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Frequently, the rate was not specified by the prescriber; in this case, nurses preferred 21 to 30 mL/h. Given the absence of evidence and the frequent use, it is important to ensure that KVO is used properly in the context of a medical prescription or an organizational protocol.

Reference:

Thank you to our partners for supporting IVTEAM

More...

- Clinical practice guidelines for chemotherapy drug extravasation
- Clinical practice guidelines for replacing peripheral intravenous catheters
- Clinical practice guideline intramuscular injection