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Bonnes et al (2018).

Abstract:

PURPOSE OF REVIEW: Catheter-related blood stream infections (CRBSI) pose a significant risk to patients on home parenteral nutrition (HPN). Recurrent loss of catheters can lead to scarring and eventual loss of central access, a potentially fatal situation for patients dependent on HPN.

RECENT FINDINGS: In the past, the standard of care to treat these infections required catheter removal. More recently, several studies have indicated that many CRBSI can be treated without removal of the catheter. Successful treatment without removal can be achieved by intentionally following a catheter salvage protocol. We define this as a previously defined protocol to accurately diagnose CRBSI, identify the organism(s) involved, and effectively treat not only the blood stream infection, but also sterilize the catheter. For patients on HPN with CRBSI, consider attempting line salvage if the patient is not suffering from severe sepsis, other infection related complications, or certain specific infections. Success rates vary depending on the organism causing the infection and the risks; benefits and chance of success should be considered when deciding to attempt line salvage.

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Reference:

Bonnes, S.L., Mundi, M.S., Hurt, R.T. and Salonen, B.R. (2018) To Pull or Not to Pull: Salvaging Central Line Catheters in Home Parenteral Nutrition. *Current Nutrition Reports*. September 28th. .

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