

As a foreign body, PVCs frequently cause phlebitis, and this inflammation is perhaps also the mechanism underlying other common complications of occlusion, infiltration, and even dislodgement” Rickard and Ray-Barruel (2017).

Summary:

Essential across clinical specialties, around 2 billion peripheral venous catheters (PVCs) are sold annually worldwide.¹ As a foreign body, PVCs frequently cause phlebitis, and this inflammation is perhaps also the mechanism underlying other common complications of occlusion, infiltration, and even dislodgement. PVCs frequently fail during treatment, with one third to one half removed prematurely because of complications.² This removal constitutes substantial health system waste and increases pain, workload, and procedures for replacement devices.

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Reference:

Rickard, C.M. and Ray-Barruel, G. (2017) Peripheral intravenous catheter assessment: beyond phlebitis. *The Lancet. Haematology*. 4(9), p. e402–e403.

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