The aim of this study was to describe the types and frequencies of complications of PICCs and midline catheters which were inserted by specialized registered nurses in a South Tyrolean district hospital”. Kostner et al (2018).

Abstract:

Types and frequencies of complications associated with midline catheters and PICCs in a South Tyrolean district hospital: a retrospective cohort study. Abstract.

BACKGROUND: Specialized registered nurses play a key role in the insertion and management of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) and midline catheters in Anglo-Saxon countries. From the German-speaking area no data on the use of PICCs and midline catheters are available.

AIM: The aim of this study was to describe the types and frequencies of complications of PICCs and midline catheters which were inserted by specialized registered nurses in a South Tyrolean district hospital.

METHODS: We performed a retrospective cohort study of PICCs and midline catheters inserted between 2013 and 2015 in one surgical unit in the district hospital Bruneck (South Tyrol / Italy).
RESULTS: Data from 900 catheters (421 midline catheters and 479 PICCs) inserted in 686 adult patients (404 women, 282 men) were analysed. The cumulative incidence was 29.2 % complications for midline catheters (incidence rate: 13 complications / 1000 catheter days) and 16.0 % for PICCs (incidence rate: 3 complications / 1000 catheter days). The most frequent complication was the removal of the catheter by the patients (PICCs: 6.7 %, midline catheters: 15.7 %). Other less frequent complications were mechanical complications, occlusions, infections and thromboses.

CONCLUSIONS: This study in one district hospital revealed similar types and frequencies of complications as previous international studies. Specialized and clinically competent nurses in German-speaking countries could develop advanced roles in the insertion and management of PICCs and midline catheters.

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