There is a need to define the most effective needleless connector decontamination techniques, including the antiseptic type and the duration of application" Flynn et al (2017).

Extract:

The incidence of central venous access device (CVAD)–associated bloodstream infection (CABSI) has been reported to be as high as 21%.1 Inadequate needleless connector decontamination can result in microbial contamination of the CVAD internal lumen, resulting in device colonization and CABSI.2

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Guidelines vary in recommendations for antiseptic type and duration of application to needleless connectors.3 Scrubbing needleless connectors with chlorhexidine in alcohol swabs is recommended by some guidelines to prevent infection.2,4 However, lack of consistent needleless connector decontamination prior to use may negate the effectiveness of this approach. There is a need to define the most effective needleless connector decontamination techniques, including the antiseptic type and the duration of application. In this study, we investigated the comparative efficacy of 3 needleless connector decontamination methods and 3 connector types with different durations of application to prevent microbial

contamination.

Reference:

Flynn, J.M., Rickard, C.M., Keogh, S. and Zhang, L. (2017) Alcohol Caps or Alcohol Swabs With and Without Chlorhexidine: An In Vitro Study of 648 Episodes of Intravenous Device Needleless Connector Decontamination. Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology. January 31st. .

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