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Hemodialysis Catheter-Related Central Venous Thrombosis: Clinical Approach to Evaluation and Management

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Abstract

Central venous catheter (CVC) use is common among patients undergoing hemodialysis. Catheter-related vascular thrombosis is a frequent complication, which results in catheter dysfunction. This may eliminate the affected vein as a potential route of vascular access and leads to significant morbidity of the limbs involved. Despite increasing prevalence, there is a dearth of evidence-based guidelines for managing such catheter-related thrombi, often leading to treatment dilemmas in clinical practice. Minimizing the use of CVCs for hemodialysis remains the best approach in preventing such adverse complications. Furthermore, meticulous planning and care when using such catheters in unavoidable circumstances along with vigilant surveillance to identify complications early will allow to avoid associated morbidity.