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FEMORAL TUNNELED HEMODIALYSIS CATHETER AS A PERMANENT ACCESS FOR HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

Herzallah AM

Consultant vascular surgeon, Matarya Teaching Hospital, Cairo, Egypt

Objective: To evaluate the efficiency of the hemodialysis catheter in the femoral tunnel as durable access for patients with hemodialysis.

Introduction: Vascular access (VA) continues to be the keystone in cases requiring hemodialysis (HD). When the choices of arterial venous fistula, grafts, and thoracic central catheters are depleted, the case's life becomes at risk. The extra options are limited to transplantation, peritoneal dialysis, insertion of the trans-lumbar and femoral catheter. The last may, in lots of cases, be the best choice. We present our experience at the Matarya Teaching Hospital with 17 cases where all vascular accesses were depleted and no transplant or peritoneal dialysis could be performed. Therefore, we chose the femoral tunnel catheter (FTC) as VA durable and unique. The median follow-up period was 10 months (2-14 months). The median age of cases was 55 (40-70) years. In ten cases, a Permcath (Hickman access system, BARD) and the other seven are inserted (DURAFLOW, from AngioDynamics). All cases received warfarin after passing low molecular weight-heparin (LMWH) to prevent thrombosis of the catheter. All catheters were functional for 2 months. The mean blood flow was 230 ml/min (200-260 ml/min). Two cases died at 5 and 12 months respectively with a functional catheter due to causes not directly related to the FTC. In a patient, the site of the catheter was changed to 5 months due to an accidental catheter slipping. A catheter has been changed because the flow has become inadequate after 8 months. No patient had deep vein thrombosis. In one patient, the catheter was operated for 14 months after insertion. We conclude that the femoral catheter in the tunnel is a stable option in cases with depleted VA

Biography

Herzallah AM is a Junior Consultant vascular surgeon in Matarya Teaching Hospital, Cairo, Egypt, one of the big vascular centres in Egypt. He has a fair experience in both open and endovascular procedures.

assemherz010@hotmail.com