Care for a renal patient after the insertion of a central venous catheter



Overview

This standard is about caring for a patient following the insertion of a central venous catheter. It involves monitoring the patient's condition as well as educating him/her in how to care for the site, signs of adverse health of the access and what to do about it. Also included is discussion of the temporary nature of this access and the plan to move to more permanent venous access in the future.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 monitor the patient for complications in the first four hours after insertion of the central venous catheter (e.g. bleeding at site of insertion, subcutaneous haematoma, tachycardia, hypotension)
- P2 monitor for signs of infection during the whole period the catheter is in place (e.g. fever, raised C- reactive protein (CRP), unexplained illness, redness at site of catheter insertion)
- P3 change the catheter dressing every time the patient attends for dialysis
- P4 recognise and address the patient's concerns about the central venous catheter and its use
- P5 explain to the patient the importance to their health of the day-to-day care of the central venous catheter
- P6 explain to the patient that episodes of fever and or rigors require immediate treatment with antibiotics and that they need to report them promptly
- P7 explain to the patient that the catheter is a temporary vascular access and, where appropriate, that surgery for an arterio-venous fistula will be arranged
- P8 explain to the patient that venography of ipsilateral subclavian/brachiocephalic veins will be performed before subsequent AVF surgery to exclude catheter induced central vein stenosis

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to take baseline observations of pulse, blood pressure and respiration rate
- K2 skills of observation
- K3 sterile procedures
- K4 health and safety requirements in relation to practice and disposal of waste
- K5 anatomy and physiology of the cardiovascular system relevant to cannulation of central veins
- K6 assessment of the patient's condition
- K7 how to administer local anaesthetic
- K8 how to administer intravenous medicines
- K9 suturing techniques
- K10 how to detect and manage complications (e.g. patient experiencing pain during procedure, arterial puncture, arrhythmia due to the guide wire irritating the right atrium or ventricle, pneumothorax, air embolus, catheter in the wrong position on radiograph)
- K11 national recommendations and other best practice guidelines (e.g. NICE)
- K12 locally agreed procedures for inserting a central venous catheter
- K13 how to operate equipment (e.g. portable ultrasound devices) in collaboration with other practitioners (e.g. from radiology department or ITU)
- K14 how to ask open-ended questions, listen carefully and summarise back
- K15 methods of communicating sensitive information to individuals
- K16 the importance of providing individuals with opportunities to ask questions and increase their understanding
- K17 how to adapt communication styles in ways which are appropriate to different people (e.g. culture, language, or special needs)
- K18 the importance of identifying how the individual wishes to be addressed and communicated with, and how to do so
- K19 how to highlight the individual's abilities in a positive way
- K20 the importance of treating individuals fairly, and how to do so
- K21 the effects of culture, religious beliefs, age and disability on individual communication styles
- K22 the different features services must have to meet people's gender, culture, language or other needs
- K23 how information obtained from individuals should be recorded and stored
- K24 the importance of obtaining full and accurate information about individuals, and how to do so

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs

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