Peripheral intravenous catheters - The hidden danger of hospital acquired infections?

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Introduction

Insertion and management of peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVCs) is a daily routine for nurses. However, PIVCs can pose serious threats to patient safety and can cause catheter associated blood stream infections if not cared for properly (1). Thus, hospitals have guidelines for PIVC care, but do the nurses follow them?

Methods

We aimed to measure if the nurses followed procedure for good PIVC care.

Results

At baseline all PIVCs had at least one deviation from procedure, whilst at first follow-up 8 PIVCs an 6 at second follow-up were perfect. At baseline the average PIVC had median 4 deviations from procedure (95%CI 3.7-5.1%) whilst the average PIVC score fell to 2 deviations (95% CI 1.1-2.2) on first and 1 deviation after second measurement after intervention, p<0.001. At second measurement 1 PVK had a score of 7, and this patient and the PVK had just arrived from another hospital.

Conclusions

Nurses do not automatically follow PIVC guidelines. Improvement processes to improve PIVC care are needed. A 30 minutes training session gave good effect, which points to a high motivation for good PIVC care among the nurses. Since we developed the PIVC quality instrument and only one nurse had the measurement responsibility, the instrument needs testing in different settings, and the interrater reliability needs to be established, as LH Høvik et al recently have done (2).

References and Grant acknowledgments