NURSES’ SESSION

Venous access devices in hematological patients: Where are we going?

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The majority of patients will have some sort of Intra Venous (IV) therapy during admission to the hospital. There is wide variety of Venous Access Devices (VAD) from peripheral to Central Venous Catheters (CVC). If a CVC is used, complications like pneumothorax, occlusion, thrombosis and infections occur in many cases.

In the prevention of complications of VAD there are many influencing factors:

- The use of a decision model to choose the best access device based on pH and osmolality, treatment plan, condition of the veins, expertise in the hospital
- The use of peripheral catheters for administration of irritating drugs increases the incidence of chemical phlebitis
- Peripheral Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) placed by expert nurses improves quality of the treatment
- The use of standard procedures for placement and care of the VAD is cost effective

In the University Medical Center Utrecht a nurse is placing PICC’s in different patient groups including hematology patients.

In this presentation an overview of all the VAD will be presented, including the role of the nurse and the use of the newest technologies.

Results of the first 40 hematology patients with a PICC will be discussed.