

THE EFFECT OF AN ANTIBIOTIC LINE LOCK PROTOCOL ON HOSPITALISATION FOR CATHETER RELATED INFECTION

E Bosah, A Crowe, I Daryanani, J Davies, P McClelland
Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral

PROBLEM: In a previously reported audit, catheter related infection was a major cause of hospitalisation in patients on haemodialysis. Antibiotic line locks were introduced as a treatment regime for catheter related infections (CRI).

PURPOSE: To determine the effects of an antibiotic line lock protocol on hospitalisation.

DESIGN: Hospital Admission Rate and Length of Stay were compared in a population of haemodialysis patients with systemic infection from tunnelled dialysis catheters. Data from the year 2001 was compared to 2002 when the antibiotic line lock protocol was introduced. The data is expressed as median (range).

FINDINGS: In the year 2001, 30 patients had tunnelled dialysis catheter vascular access, 29 developed CRI requiring admission. Age 70 (28 - 82), M/F ratio was 13/16. The Hospital Admission Rate was 2 (1 - 7) and the Length of Stay was 24 (1 - 89) days. In the year 2002, 46 patients had tunnelled dialysis catheters, 26 developed CRI. Only 11 required admission. Age 66 (35 - 81), M/F ratio 6/5. The Hospital Admission Rate was 1 (1 - 2) and the Length Of Stay was 16 (5 - 72) days.

CONCLUSION: Hospital admission rate and Length of Stay were significantly reduced by the introduction of an antibiotic line lock protocol.