

## IMPLICATIONS OF ARTERIOVENOUS FISTULA SURGERY ON PATIENT FUNCTION AND ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

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**PROBLEM:** A high volume of renal patients undergo arteriovenous fistula surgery for a variety of reasons at this large renal unit. Following such surgery, there is a risk of potential complications, which may have an effect on a patient's hand use and ability to function efficiently whilst performing activities of daily living.

**PURPOSE:** To investigate the implications of arteriovenous fistula surgery on patient function, identifying the activities of daily living which patients report are most effected, and the therapeutic consequences of this change in patient function.

**DESIGN:** Retrospective and prospective study. Twenty patients who have undergone arteriovenous fistula surgery over a 6 month period will complete a qualitative activities of daily living questionnaire. This questionnaire is designed to identify the patient's management of a variety of activities of daily living pre and post arteriovenous fistula surgery and the effect this surgery has had on their overall performance of normal activities of daily living.

**FINDINGS:** This study is in progress at the time of abstract completion and submission. Initial findings indicate that a percentage of patients undergoing arteriovenous fistula surgery develop complications post surgery resulting in a significant reduction in the patients ability to perform and manage a variety of activities of daily living. Those activities mainly affected are those requiring bilateral upper limb function. The therapeutic consequences of this change to patient function focus on a need for early identification of complications and referral of patients to Occupational Therapy for assessment and a compensatory approach to patient identified difficulties, such as teaching of new methods of task performance and/or provision of assistive devices to increase independence in performance of activities of daily living.

**CONCLUSION:** In a large renal unit where a high volume of patients undergo arteriovenous fistula surgery, a number will develop complications post surgery resulting in loss of hand function and a reduction in the ability to perform activities of daily living effectively and efficiently, those activities requiring bilateral upper limb use the most affected.

**RELEVANCE:** Early identification of arteriovenous fistula surgery complications and appropriate referral to Occupational Therapy for compensatory therapeutic input will assist in maximizing the patient's ability to manage independently and improve their quality of life.