

Abstract**Experience with Tunnelled Femoral Hemodialysis Catheter**

Lim ES, Chooi LK, Loh JW, Umasangar R

Hospital Taiping

Introduction:

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the use and complication rate of tunnelled femoral hemodialysis catheter in end stage renal failure with no other vascular access.

Method:

Over a one year retrospective study, from June 2011 to June 2012, 21 tunnelled femoral catheters (12 right, 9 left) were placed in 16 patients.

Results:

Post operative review showed successful placement in all patients. Result from interview showed infection occurred in 5 patients, one passed away due to catheter related sepsis. 4 patients passed away, due to non-catheter related illness. 4 others developed catheter thrombosis. One patient had catheter dislodged after 1 month of insertion. 6 other patient used the catheter without any complication. Out of 16 patients, 5 patients used the tunnelled catheter as permanent hemodialysis access due to unsuccessful either native arteriovenous fistula or graft. Interestingly, the 4 patients who passed away were from this category. 1 patient continues regular hemodialysis via tunnelled femoral catheter. 11 patients used the tunnelled catheter as temporary access, 2 out of these on internal jugular catheter as temporary vascular access and 9 had catheter removed as arteriovenous fistula matured and function.

Conclusion:

Femoral vein tunnelled catheter is susceptible to various complication, Advocating early arteriovenous fistula creation in chronic renal impairment patients should be emphasised.