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Abstract (poster session)

Clinical experience and successful use of taurolidine drain-assisted irrigation as salvage therapy in 3 complex cases of femoro-popliteal prosthetic graft infection

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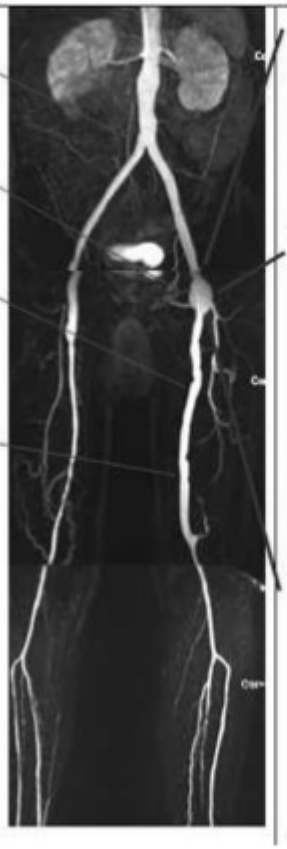
Background: An infrainguinal prosthetic graft infection is a serious complication of vascular surgery. In most cases, removal of graft is required to save the patient's life and in selected cases a reconstruction is required to save the limb. The associated morbidity and mortality of these procedures remain high. In selected cases, however, preservation of the infected patent synthetic graft is possible. Taurolidine is derived from amino-acid taurine. It has antimicrobial and anti-lipopolysaccharide properties. We present our experience of successful use of taurolidine irrigation as salvage therapy in three complicated cases of femoro-popliteal prosthetic graft infections thereby preserving graft and limb perfusion. Method: Case notes review of three cases. Post procedure drain assisted Taurolidine irrigation of graft. Summary of cases: Three patients with postoperative infrainguinal prosthetic graft infections were managed with: 1. Operative drainage of perigraft collection 2. Curettage of the organized bio film around graft 3. Lavage with saline and peroxide 4. Post procedure drain assisted irrigation with Taurolidine (Taurlock) 5. Simultaneous peri- operative short course of systemic antibiotics Regular, twice a week cultures from wound site were carried out. Successful outcome included clinical improvement and negative cultures. After a mean follow up of 3 months all the three patients remained infection free clinically as well as laboratory markers, and well healed wounds with patent grafts and well perfused limbs. Conclusion: Surgical intervention with aggressive local clearance, coupled with post operative drain assisted local irrigation with Taurolidine appears to be effective and useful method of controlling infection as well as preserving the graft, and there by limb perfusion, in selected infrainguinal prosthetic vascular graft infections. The use of taurolidine as salvage therapy was mutually agreed between the vascular surgeon and microbiologist. Patient consent was obtained for this out of licensed indication use. The drain assisted irrigation is quite simple and with effective results. Taurolidine, with its antimicrobial properties, inhibits any microbial growth around the graft permitting the body-healing process. There is need for further large randomized, controlled studies in future. Pictures and details to be presented.

Aorto-bi-femoral graft from 2000

Left groin pseudo-aneurysm

Left above knee fem-pop bypass from Apr 2008

Arterial Duplex:
Left:
Distal ABG patent with good triphasic waveforms.
Breach of anastomosis Lt groin forming a pseudoaneurysm.
Left FP surrounded by mixed echogenicity material. Halo extends along the length of the graft.



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