

P2557 Management of peripheral venous catheters in German hospitals: a national cross-sectional survey

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Background: Peripheral venous catheters (PVC) are the medical device most frequently used for vascular access in German hospitals. Despite reports of a low individual risk of severe adverse events, the high prevalence of 30-80% of PVC in hospitalized patients poses a risk for infections associated with PVC. In 2017 the Robert Koch Institute published recommendations for the management of PVC in Germany.

The objective of the study was to describe current practice regarding the management of PVCs in German hospitals and identify areas for potential improvement in patient safety

Materials/methods: We designed a questionnaire on management of PVC. This was validated independently among experts and members of the national reference center for the surveillance of healthcare associated infections and the local ipc-team. Healthcare institutions participating in the modules for Hand Hygiene and ICU German hospital infection surveillance system (KISS) were invited to participate in this online survey from November to December 2017. Three reminders were sent during the study period.

Results: Of 2,759 invitations 1,451 (52.6%) complete questionnaires from hospitals were included into the evaluation. Those were received from ICU (n=599), medical wards (MW) (n=447), surgical wards (SW) (n=405) from 698 different hospitals.

Overall 631 (43.5%) said that they already implemented the current standard of care according to the recommendations (ICU 45.7%; MW 42.5%; SW 41.2%). 302 (20.8%) perform structured surveillance on PVC associated infections (ICU 25.5%; MW 17.5%; SW 17.5%). Standard operating procedures are available on 1,294 (89.2%) wards for the insertion of PVC, on 1,389 (95.7%) wards for preparation of intravenous drugs, on 1025 (70.6%) wards for storage of mixed i.v. drugs and on 1,259 (86.8%) wards for application of infusion.

Structured training regarding management of PVC during orientation is common practice for nurse staff on 1,371 wards (94.5%) and physicians on 1,045 wards (72.0%). However practical training is still uncommon for nurse staff (542 wards; 37.4%) and physicians (n=349; 24.1%).

1412 of the participating wards (98.4%) use dressings and 876 (59.8%) of the participating wards use capping according to the recommendations.

Conclusions: Official recommendations regarding PVC in are not yet sufficiently implemented in German hospitals.

