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Catheter infections in hemodialysis patients

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Introduction: The hemodialysis is an invasive medical act where patients are exposed to many complications. Infection represents the second cause of morbidity-mortality. Our objective in this study is to describe the clinical, para-clinical and bacterial profile of infections that have, as a starting point, the hemodialysis catheters.

Patients & Methods: We have conducted a retrospective study over one year on 18 patients on hemodialysis who were hospitalized in Infectiology department of Ibn Rochd University Hospital.

Results: The majority of our patients were male (72%) with an average age of 59 years old. Clinically, the symptoms appeared over a period of 29 days, the fever was the main symptom found in all of our patients associated to signs of sepsis in 83% of the cases. All of our patients had a positive RCP and leukocytosis, and they all benefited of blood culture on peripheral sample and catheter taking. The catheters are withdrawn then the distal end is cultured allowing the diagnosis of the responsible germ in 66.5% of the cases. The germs that are identified most of the time are the *Staphylococcus aureus* (44.5%), *Staphylococcus* coagulase-negative (11%), *E. coli* (5.5%) and *Candida* spp. (5.5%). All our patients received antibiotic therapy based on Vancomycin and Amikacin than adapted to the antibiogram. 84% of the patients had a good clinical outcome.

Conclusion: The vascular access on patients on hemodialysis deserves a particular attention. The prevention of infections relays on the temporary and careful use of catheters, then the creation of artery-venial fistula.

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