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Vascular access: Nursing interventions, maintenance, and specialty patient care

Statement of the Problem: Vascular access is the hallmark of acute care and is the patient's lifeline to treatment. Care and maintenance of vascular access requires robust and specialty knowledge and critical thinking is required to ensure safety. Advances in vascular access research needs to include devices and products in research models. The purpose of this presentation is to describe the care and maintenance of vascular access devices and note specialty needs of oncology, trauma and geriatric patients. Care issues include obtaining laboratory blood samples, understanding flow rates and preventing infections and occlusions. Maintenance issues include flushing and dressing changes. A secondary purpose is to describe the Healthcare and Technology Synergy (HATS) Model for use in medical and nursing research.

Theoretical Orientation: Review of literature, guidelines and practical experience will be used to discuss care and maintenance issues as well as interventions for several specialty patient populations. The HATS model will be described as a research approach to investigators.

Conclusion & Significance: Care and maintenance of central venous lines in the sole responsibility of the bedside nurse. The primary goals are to provide required therapies and have a complication free period for the duration of the patient's stay and post discharge. The fulfilment of these goals requires specialized knowledge and critical thinking that can lead to safe and effective care in patients with vascular access devices.

Biography

Cynthia Chernecky and Denise Macklin have expertise in vascular access and a passion for improving care of patients with vascular access devices, particular central venous catheters. All 3 authors, Chernecky, Denise Macklin and Zadinsky, developed and have experience with the HATS model as a way of assisting in the implementation of research.

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