

Peripherally inserted central venous catheters (PICCs): A three-year experience: The Surgeon - Nurse Vascular Access Team

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Introduction

Peripherally inserted central venous catheters (PICCs) have emerged as viable alternatives to short-term, nontunneled centrally inserted central venous catheters. The purpose of this study is to analyse the related complications and to evaluate effect of a comprehensive intervention on long-term PICCs with the purpose of establishing and reviewing the guides on insertion, management and care of PICC, identifying opportunities for improving the process of the Surgeon and Nurse team

Materials and Methods

An observational retrospective cohort study was conducted based on the manual review of the registry of patients who underwent the implantation of 'PICC' catheters at the Fundación Cardioinfantil-IC during the period between June of 2015 and January of 2018

Results



A total of **1443** consecutive patients were enrolled, the median age of 32 years (IQR, 57 years)



Antibiotics
80%



Chemotherapy
6.5%



Inotropics
3.5%

- Complication Rate of 4% in the three years.
- Treatment was started immediately upon insertion, and the duration of the catheter was a median 16 days (IQR 15 days)

The various complications developed in order of occurrence were as follows: **10 bloodstream infections, 7 local skin infections at the insertion site, 6 fractures of the “PICCs” catheter, and 9 thromboses of the catheter insertion site.**

Conclusion

Thrombotic events and infectious complications were uncommon following PICC and should be discontinued when no longer absolutely needed. And the implementation of a surgeon and nurse-led PICC team had a significant impact on the complications rate.