

FICC: a safe choice for oncological patients

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BACKGROUND

Femoral insertion of vascular access devices (VAD) in Spain inserted by nurses continues to be a new frontier in the field. Femorally Inserted Central Catheter (FICC) have demonstrated to be a safe solution in patients whose superior veins are not available, whether due to bilateral thrombosis of neck-chest veins, vena cava syndrome, among others. On the other hand, chemotherapy treatment in patients with these conditions are challenging from the moment that a long-term VAD is needed for a safe infusion of vesicant drugs.

CASE SUMMARY

A 72 y.o diabetic male patient affected by lung neoplasia, with a large tumor mass at the thoracic level that compressed superior cava vein (SCV), infiltrated aorta, pulmonary artery and right atrium. Patient presented collateral circulation and SCV syndrome, causing significant dyspnea. Due to the severe clinical situation, urgent chemotherapy was required. Vascular Access Team (VAT) composed by nurses was contacted by the oncology team for VAD assessment.

- 16th June 2022, RaFeVA was performed and a FICC catheter was inserted by puncturing right common femoral vein in red area following the SIF protocol. A tunnel was created for an exit-site to green zone in mid-thigh. Skin secur On ement was guaranteed by subcutaneous anchoring system (images 1, 2).
- Tip position was then confirmed by bubble test, leaving the tip above renal veins.
- 14 sessions of pemetrexed-pembrolizumab and 3 sessions of doxetacel were administered.
- Blood sampling, dressing changes and catheter flushing were performed by Day Hospital nurses after every session.
- Despite some clinical improvement, the tumor wasn't presenting significant changes and chemotherapy was suspended. VAD was left for intravenous symptoms control and regular blood samples in home care.
- During this time, patient's family were trained for dressing changes and flushing at home.
- On 29th January 2024, the patient eventually passed away and the catheter was removed.
- The total dwell time was 592 days. No complications were ever related during the life of the catheter.



Image 1: ZIM applied to lower limb. Brescia et al. 2020

Image 2: FICC in patient. Picture property of the authors with the consent of the patient.

DISCUSSION- CONCLUSSIONS

Femoral vascular access is commonly related with high risk of complications. For this reason, placing a VAD in this area can be doubtful, even more when a long-term VAD is needed. However, the use of validated protocols (ReFeVA, RAVESTO), validated techniques (tunneling), technology (subcutaneous catheter fixation) and family training together with education for home care are the key of this case report.

Click on the QR for discovering the scientific references used on this poster!!



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