

From PICC Expertise to PICC-PORT Implantation: A Structured Nurse-Led Pathway for Vascular Access Care

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Introduction

Vascular access care is increasingly delivered through multidisciplinary teams, with nurse-led practice well established in PICC insertion and management. PICC-PORT implantation represents a potential expansion of advanced nursing practice; however, evidence on the feasibility of this transition remains limited.

Aim

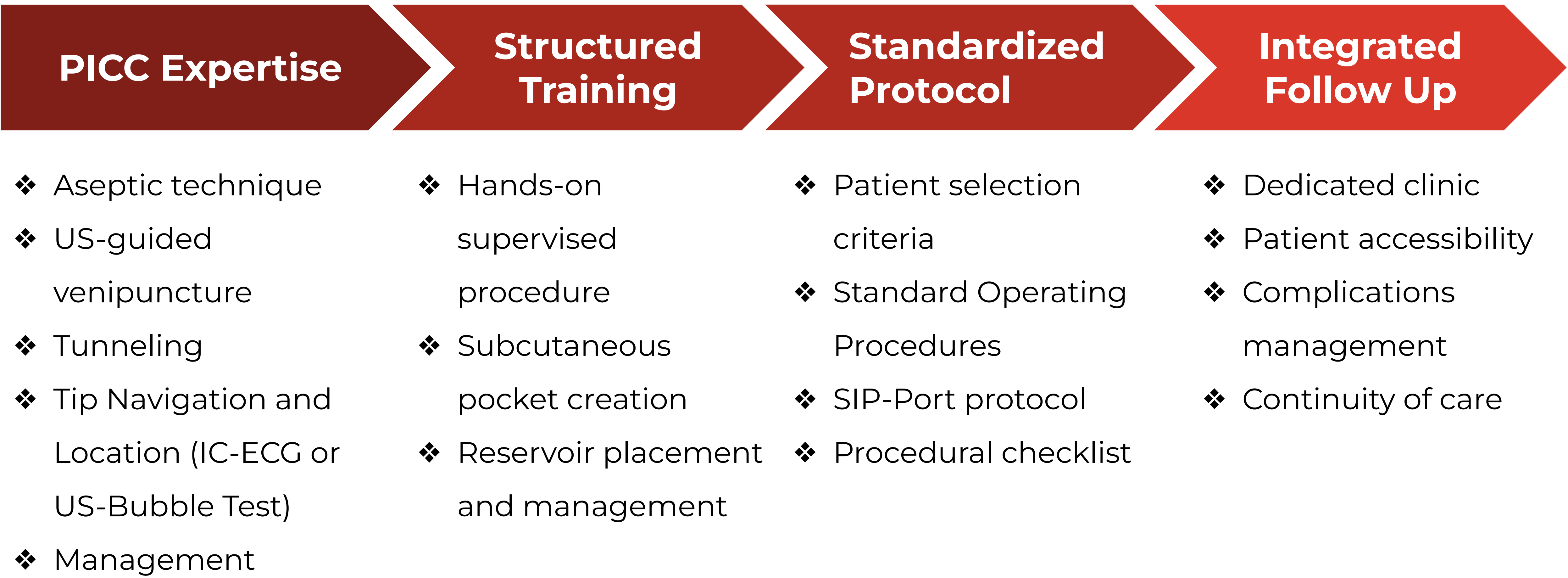
To evaluate the feasibility of expanding nurse-led practice to include PICC-PORT implantation in a PICC-experienced team through a structured clinical pathway.

Setting

The study was conducted within a dedicated vascular access outpatient clinic at CRO di Aviano, an oncology referral center, providing centralized insertion, management, and follow-up of vascular access devices.

Methods

A structured implementation pathway was introduced in a dedicated vascular access clinic, involving PICC-experienced nurses and incorporating competency-based training, standardized protocols and integrated follow-up. The implementation pathway is summarized in the flowchart, highlighting the key steps from existing PICC expertise to PICC-PORT implantation.



References

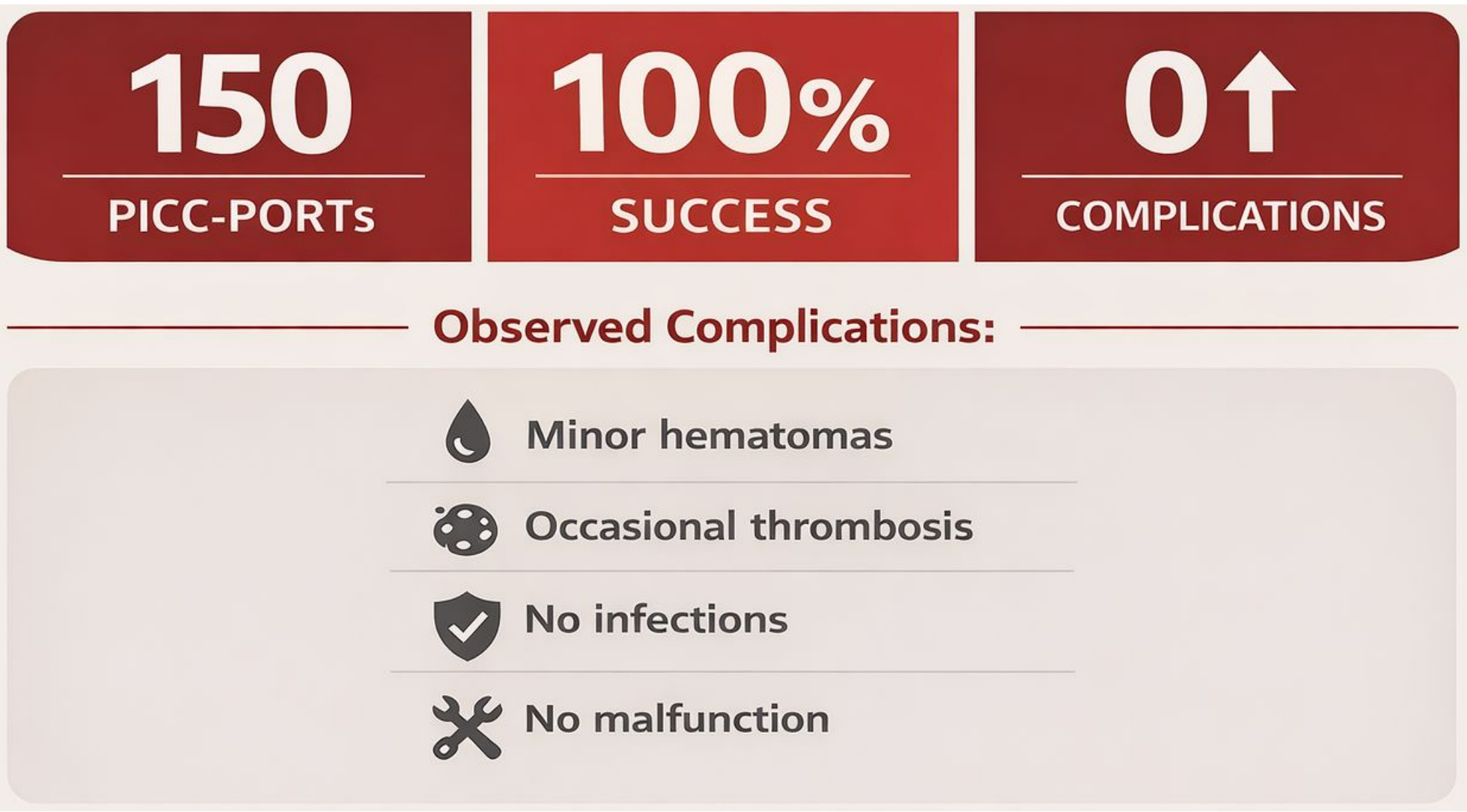
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Results

150 PICC-PORTs were implanted over a 6-month period with 100% procedural success. No increase in overall or severe complications was observed during early follow-up. Reported complications were consistent with those expected for device implantation and underlying oncological disease.



Conclusion

A step-up model within a group of nurses experienced in PICC insertion is feasible with a structured implementation pathway. Nurse-led PICC-PORT implantation is feasible and safe when supported by structured training and standardized procedures.