

Review of: "Audit of Haemodialysis Vascular Access in a Sub-Saharan Tertiary Hospital"

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An interesting, well-written study of the experiences of a small hemodialysis center in a developing country, constituting in a sense a photograph of real life. The scientific value of the study is limited. The main shortcoming of the study is the joint development of treatment for acute and chronic cases. It would seem that short-term (< 1 month) dialysis therapy using a catheter inserted through the femoral vein should proceed without significant complications, but complications are not uncommon in these patients. The most interesting group of patients is those undergoing chronic dialysis using a permanent catheter. This subgroup in the reviewed study is small, and the hemodialysis time was not analyzed. Serious problems appear after years (dysfunctions, mechanical damage, and infection, including catheter-related endocarditis), and often the main challenge of such therapy is the removal of such catheters after 8-10 or more years. Covering the catheter with scar connective tissue necessitates the techniques used to extract old intracardiac leads. Unfortunately, this issue was completely ignored. Of course, I understand the limitations resulting from the analysis of a relatively small group of patients, but this topic should appear at least in the discussion. I propose to expand the analysis of the material with a more detailed analysis of chronically dialyzed patients and to include this aspect of dialysis therapy in the discussion.