

July 31, 2014

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 11990-review.doc)

Title: Focus on peripherally inserted central catheters in critically ill patients

Author: Paolo Cotogni and Mauro Pittiruti

Name of Journal: *World Journal of Critical Care Medicine*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 11990

The Authors wish to thank the reviewer for their suggestions.

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers and corrections are marked in red in this revised edition of the manuscript:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

Answer to Reviewer 02876254

Major comments:

What do the Authors think about the higher risk of venous stenosis for subclavian inserted catheters? Please comment.

R. We have commented this issue as suggested by the reviewer in a paragraph (Hemodialysis catheters) (see pages 20 and 21).

Minor comments:

- 1) "critical ill patients" has been corrected with "critically ill patients" in the title and the whole manuscript.
- 2) The text has been checked again for proper English.
- 3) Page 7: "PICC" has been corrected with 'PICCs'.
- 4) Page 7: "in whom preservation of upper-extremity veins is needed for arteriovenous fistula" has been corrected with "in whom preservation of upper extremity veins is mandatory for the placement of an arteriovenous fistula".
- 5) Page 7: "finally, because of PICCs are inserted as an elective procedure" has been corrected with "Finally, since PICCs are inserted as an elective procedure".
- 6) Page 9: "rate" has been corrected with "rates".
- 7) Page 10: "the other side" has been corrected as "contralateral side".
- 8) Page 19: "The venipuncture of the femoral" has been corrected with "The venipuncture of the femoral vein".
- 9) Page 20: The sentence "More recently, are being increasingly used in critical care settings the open ended (or non-valved) polyurethane PICCs with a clamp to stop flow through their lumen" has been changed and the whole paragraph has been re-written.

- 10) We have discussed this issue as suggested by the reviewer in a paragraph (Hemodialysis catheters) (see pages 20 and 21). Also, the review on the catheter for hemodialysis suggested by the reviewer has been added to the references (n. 122).

Answer to Reviewer 00504802

One thing also should be well emphasized is, that the risk of central VAD infection is also dependent (in addition to all the others factors well described in the paper) on the length of duration (i.e., cumulative risk with each day of use).

R. We have commented this issue as suggested by the reviewer (see page 14).

Additionally, some patients may present acutely ill with an indwelling central access devices, such us pre-existing tunneled (tunneled-cuffed) catheters, whereas these devices are the actual source of illness. In these cases, if infection suspect, it is enormously important to remove these devices as soon as possible. In fact, some of these "tunneled-cuffed" accesses can be removed at bedside.

R. We have commented this issue as suggested by the reviewer in a paragraph (Hemodialysis catheters) (see pages 20 and 21) and at the beginning of the section "CHOICE OF THE VAD" (see page 6). Also, the review suggested by the reviewer has been added to the references (n. 121).

Minor comments:

In the section "CARE OF THE VAD", "Countries" has been changed to a lower case "c".


Answers to Reviewer 00742182

- 1) "Since the 70s" has been changed to "Since the 1970's".
- 2) The statement, "all critical ill patients require a central VAD for the optimal management of their disease" has been changed to "as it is widely accepted that critically ill patients require a central VAD for the optimal management of their disease".
- 3) "In the last years" has been replaced with "In recent years".
- 4) "diffusion" has been replaced with "dissemination".
- 5) "Since late '90" has been replaced with "Since the late 1990's".
- 6) *Do the authors want to indicate that they are only including temporary catheters and not discussing permanent or long-term indwelling catheters? Some of the literature is a bit mixed in their analyses.*
R. In this review, we have focused exclusively on critically ill patients, in whom only short term and medium term VADs are indicated. We did our best to exclude papers on long term VADs from this analysis. We have commented this issue as suggested by the reviewer at the beginning of the section "CHOICE OF THE VAD" (see page 6).
- 7) *Do the authors include dialysis catheters?*
R. We have commented this issue as suggested by the reviewer in a paragraph (Hemodialysis catheters) (see pages 20 and 21).
- 8) "slackened" has been replaced with "Limited".
- 9) Figure 5 (now, Figure 6) has been improved adding another landmark indicator.
- 10) Figure 6 (now, Figure 7) has been improved.
- 11) In Figures 7 and 8 (now, Figure 8 and 9), the eyes have been blacked out.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Critical Care Medicine*

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paolo Cotogni', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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