

# SEVERING OF HAEMODIALYSIS CATHETER LUMENS BY A PATIENT OUTSIDE THE DIALYSIS UNIT – A CASE REPORT

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## AIM

Even though healthcare professionals are responsible for the application and maintenance of haemodialysis (HD) catheters, properly instructing patients and their relatives, and reminding their responsibilities subsequent to the dialysis session are of paramount importance.

## CASE

A HD patient of Antalya Training and Research Hospital, age 80, had severed the catheter lumens after failing to unfasten the catheter bandage at around 22:00 on the following day after a dialysis session. When bleeding commenced from the severed catheter lumens, the patient got scared and called the 112 Emergency Hotline. The responding emergency healthcare squad sealed the catheter clamps and brought the patient to the emergency department of our hospital. The catheter was then reinstated, restoring permanent vascular access for HD treatment.

## RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Vascular access is essential to HD treatment of patients with chronic kidney disease. Establishing patient-specific vascular access and maintaining thereof are the duties of healthcare professionals.

However, the responsibility of preserving the catheter lays on the patient and her/his relatives, which means that they should be instructed accordingly. Instructions given during and following each dialysis session by HD nurses/technicians accentuate the function and importance of catheters.

Prevention of damage to vascular access improves survival rates and reduces the risk of life-threatening injuries. Adjustment to treatment alleviates anxiety and raises dialysis quality, thereby increasing quality of life. HD nurses and technicians should be aware that their responsibilities do not end with dialysis treatment of a patient, but extend to being instructors as well.



**KEYWORDS:** Haemodialysis; vascular access; instructing patient and relatives; catheter.