

Renal Pro Discussion Forum

Use of different types of gloves for cannulation

A really fruitful discussion was initiated with a question about cannulating arterio-venous graft. Are sterile gloves generally used for this procedure? The same question was referred to catheters — are sterile gloves generally used, or non-sterile gloves, with caution not to touch the catheter hubs?

From the replies received we understood that there is variety in practices in different units. Several units replied that non-sterile gloves are used for cannulation; other units use sterile gloves for grafts but not for fistulas; other units use a two glove procedure (clean the skin with non-sterile gloves, switch to sterile before cannulating) for cannulation.

Most units seem to use sterile gloves only for changing the dressing for CVC lines. Several respondents mentioned the difficulty in maintaining sterile technique while connecting CVC line to the dialysis machine as one nurse connecting the patient independently. This is solved in some units by using a sterile technique with non-sterile gloves – i.e., dry, sterile compresses are used to handle the bloodlines, to connect and disconnect. Using dry sterile gauze prevents the possibility of disinfectants entering the catheter lumen.

Another point brought up included the risk of infection from using shared rolls of surgical tape and mentioned that the CDC in America mandates single-use rolls of tape.

A clear demonstration of connecting with the use of non-sterile gloves in a sterile technique from one of the units participating in the discussion:

Connection: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oq_VuUL6hkw

Disconnection: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmCBbyMugNI>

Thanks to all who participated!

Feel free to send comments or corrections!

Chava & Sabine