Hemodialysis via Shaldon Catheter for 40 Months: An Unique Experience in a 24-Year-Old Patient

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Dear Sir,

The cannulation of the femoral or subclavian vein with a Shaldon catheter is not considered a suitable method to dialyze patients for a longer period. This technique is therefore mostly chosen to gain time, while a suitable access site is being established [1]. We should like to report a 24-year-old male dialysis patient who underwent chronic hemodialysis (HD) in 1974 and suffered from serious shunt problems during the following years. In March 1982 it became finally evident that it was, in spite of numerous attempts, impossible to provide our patient with an adequate access site. As the patient refused to be transferred to peritoneal dialysis, we inserted a shaldon catheter in the vena anonyma and started with single-needle HD. Febrile reactions occurring during the following HD treatments were the reason to commence an antibiotic therapy consisting of dicloxacillin and am-picillin. The patient received the antibiotics intravenously while being on HD, and orally on the days between HD, respectively. As the patient got used to the Shaldon catheter and was not willing to undergo any further vascular operation, we were forced to continue the treatment using the Shaldon catheter in the following years.

The patient has now been dialyzed for 40 months via this catheter, which is changed every 4 weeks. The patient (28.0 kg, 141 cm), full-time employed, owner and driver of a car, has not been admitted to the hospital since March 1982. As a very high antibody titer renders a kidney transplantation rather unlikely, we are prepared to continue with this special mode of HD for the coming years. It should be finally mentioned that not only the HD procedure has not been changed since 40 months, but that also, the patient's antibiotic therapy has been maintained since that time.

References:

1 Bell, P.R.F.; Caiman, K.C.: Vascular access in dialysis; in Drucker et al., Replacement of renal function by dialysis, pp. 182–188 (Martinus Nijhoff, 1978).