

Tunnel Hemodialysis Catheter Placement using the Supra-clavicular Approach to Overcome Stenosis of the Internal Jugular Vein at its Origin

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8 Abstract

9 A case of ESRD on HD who is referred for placement of tunnel hemodialysis catheter insertion
10 because his arterial-venous fistula is still immature to be used for HD. He had had 3 TDC
11 placed in the right IJ on previous occasions. His angiogram revealed stenosis of the internal
12 jugular vein at its junction with subclavian vein. After 3 failed attempts at right internal
13 jugular vein cannulation the Supraclavicular approach of the SCV cannulation was achieved
14 with ease overcoming the stenosis in the right internal jugular vein. The case is 68 years
15 Caucasian male with end stage renal disease secondary to renal cell carcinoma and
16 hypertension. He had three tunnel hemodialysis catheters (TDC) placed in the right internal
17 jugular vein and failed radial-cephalic arterial-venous fistula in the left forearm.

Index terms— supraclavicular vein cannulation, end-stage renal disease, tunnel dialysis access, arterial-venous fistula, pneumothorax, subclavian vein.

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22 Internal Jugular Vein at its Origin Magbri A MD ?, Brandt M CV RT ?, Mock L RT ?, Colosimo V RN ?,
23 Zurawsky R RN ¥ & McCartney P BSN, RN § Abstract-A case of ESRD on HD who is referred for placement
24 of tunnel hemodialysis catheter insertion because his arterialvenous fistula is still immature to be used for HD.
25 He had had 3 TDC placed in the right IJ on previous occasions. His angiogram revealed stenosis of the internal
26 jugular vein at its junction with subclavian vein. After 3 failed attempts at right internal jugular vein cannulation
27 the Supraclavicular approach of the SCV cannulation was achieved with ease overcoming the stenosis in the right
28 internal jugular vein. The case is 68 years Caucasian male with end stage renal disease secondary to renal cell
29 carcinoma and hypertension. He had three tunnel hemodialysis catheters (TDC) placed in the right internal
30 jugular vein and failed radialcephalic arterial-venous fistula in the left forearm. He had recently placed brachial-
31 cephalic AVF in the left arm which was not matured to be used in HD. He was referred to the Dialysis Access
32 Center of Pittsburgh, PA for placement of right internal jugular vein tunneled hemodialysis catheter. Three
33 attempts were made to place TDC in the right IJ vein were without avail due to stenosis in the origin of the
34 right IJ at its junction with the sub-clavian vein as illustrated in the angiogram. A decision was made to place
35 the TDC using the supra-clavicular approach as described below to overcome the stenosis in the right IJ. The
36 procedure was accomplished without difficulty using the ultra-sound-guided cannulation of the subclavian vein
37 and the supra-clavicular approach. Supraclavicular placement of tunnel dialysis catheter is easy and safe method
38 to overcome stenosis in the internal jugular vein.

39 Keywords: supraclavicular vein cannulation, end-stage renal disease, tunnel dialysis access, arterial-venous
40 fistula, pneumothorax, subclavian vein.

2 II. TECHNIQUE

41 1 I. Sedation

42 ? Explain the procedure, benefits, risks, and complications, and obtain signed informed consent. ? Sedate the
43 patient using versed and fentanyl injected into the central veins. Vital signs were monitored by the nurse for the
44 entire period of the procedure.

45 2 II. Technique

46 ? The skin at the cannulation site is infiltrated with local anesthesia (1% lidocaine), then using real time
47 ultra-sound guidance, the subclavian vein (SCV)

48 Author ? ? ? ? ¥ §: Dialysis Access Center of Pittsburgh, PA. e-mail: elmagbri@hotmail.com was cannulated
49 using a 45° bisection of the approximately 90° angle formed by the superior aspect of the clavicle and the lateral
50 border of the sternocleidomastoid.

51 ? Under continuous aspiration with the syringe the needle is directed parallel to the chest wall in the coronal
52 plane aiming for the contra-lateral nipple or the supra-sternal notch 10-15° to the sagittal plane and 35° posteriorly
53 from the coronal plane (1, 2). ? When blood is freely aspirated the 0.018 inch guide wire was inserted in the
54 needle and then co-axial 3 and 5 Fr dilators were placed. The puncture site to the SCV is achieved easily using
55 the direction explained earlier, 1.5 cm lateral to the heads of the sternocleidomastoid muscle and about 1 cm
56 above the clavicle. ? The 0.018 wire is advance into the vein and the needle is exchanged for the co-axial dilators.
57 A 0.035 inch Bentson (Merit-Medical system Inc Jordan, Utah, USA) guide wire is placed with its distal tip in
58 the inferior vena cava under fluoroscopy. ? A 1 cm incision was made at the venotomy site and the area was
59 bluntly dissected with a pair of hemostat. A tunnel was created following a subcutaneous infiltration with 1%
60 lidocaine along the expected course of the tunnel. The tunnel should be at least 8-10 cm in length. A # 11
61 blade is used to create a 5 mm incision on the chest wall at the desired entry site on the chest. ? The tunnel was
62 then dilated with a pair of hemostat as well as the catheter-tunnelet combination from the exit site towards the
63 venotomy site. ? The desired catheter length was advanced from the exit site in the anterior chest wall to the
64 venotomy site and the SVC under direct fluoroscopy without the peel-away sheath. ? The tip of the catheter is
65 placed between the junctions of the SCV with the right atrium. Making sure there is no evidence of malposition,
66 kinks of the catheter or complication.¹

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III. Complications and Advantages of the Supra-clavicular Approach for Tunnel Hemodialysis Catheter Insertion

1. The rate of all procedure-related complications has dropped significantly with image-guided insertion. Arterial puncture (0.8-3.36%), pneumothoraces (0.48-0.56%), and catheter malpositioning are virtually non-existing with image guided insertion (3-12).
2. Venous laceration that often occurs with the traditional method can also happen in this approach. Puncture or laceration of the subclavian artery is theoretical possibility. Also this approach should be avoided in patients who are anticoagulated because the subclavian vein cannot

be compressed.

3. The supra-clavicular approach is easy to accomplish and avoids stenosis at the origin of the

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Figure 1:

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