Title: Topical Local Anesthetics for Vascular Access in Adults: Clinical Effectiveness and Guidelines for Use

Date: 27 June 2008

Research question:

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of topical local anesthetics for the management of pain during vascular access in adults?

2. What are the guidelines for use of topical local anesthetics for the management of pain during vascular access in adults?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 2, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international HTA agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and June 2008 and are limited to English language publications only. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Internet links are provided, where available.

Results:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, observational studies and evidence-based guidelines.

One systematic review and four randomized controlled trials related to the clinical effectiveness of topical local anesthetics for the management of pain during vascular access in adults were identified from the literature search results. Two evidence based guidelines for use of topical local anesthetics for the management of pain during vascular access in adults were identified.
No health technology assessments or observational studies were identified. Additional articles of interest are located in the Appendix.

**Health technology assessments**
No literature identified

**Systematic reviews and meta-analyses**


**Randomized controlled trials**


**Observational studies**
No literature identified

**Guidelines and recommendations**


   *Note: see Vascular Access Devices – 4.c.2*

Appendix – further information:

Review articles