Title: Umbilical Catheters in Neonates: Safety and Guidelines

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Research question:

1. What is the evidence for infection rates and safety of umbilical catheters in neonates?
2. What are the guidelines for insertion of umbilical catheters?

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 2004 and June 2008 and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews, health technology assessments and meta-analyses, and guidelines. A filter was added to locate safety evidence. 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 (RCTs), observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

Four systematic reviews, one RCT, ten observational studies and three guidelines were identified pertaining to the safety and guidelines of the use of umbilical catheters in neonates. No relevant health technology assessments were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the Appendix.

Health technology assessments

No literature identified.
Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations


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Appendix – further information:

Regional neonatal handbooks


Guidelines and recommendations


Additional references
