Title: Heparin Use with Pulmonary Artery Catheters: Clinical Effectiveness

Date: 11 April 2008

Research question:

What is the evidence for the use of heparin to maintain the patency of pulmonary artery catheters for clotting rates, infection rates and rates of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia?

Methods:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 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 1998 and April 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 (RCTs), observational studies and evidence-based guidelines.

One meta-analysis and three observational studies and were identified pertaining to the evidence for the use of heparin to maintain the patency of pulmonary artery catheters. No relevant health technology assessments, RCTs, or evidence based guidelines were identified in the literature search. Additional information of interest can be found in the Appendix.

Health technology assessments

None identified

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Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials

None identified

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations

None identified.

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Appendix – Further information:

Additional references


Health Canada advisories
