Reviewer's report

Title: Incidence of catheter-related complications in patients with central venous or hemodialysis catheters: a health care claims database analysis

Version: 2 Date: 8 July 2013

Reviewer: Manuel Pestana

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Overview:
The authors performed a retrospective analysis from a selected cohort of U.S. patients receiving health insurance benefits. The aim of the study was to describe central venous catheter-related morbidity, including CVCs and HD catheters. Although the study objective is not totally original, it is still an important issue for us physicians working with these devices.

Comments:
The paper provides a concise and easy reading. The study population is large and representative. Patient enrollment is well defined, as well as, follow-up. Outcome events are well characterized.

Limitations of the study are stated.

Minor revisions
1. I think it would be interesting to report the event rates for temporary (acute) HD catheters versus permanent (tunneled) cuffed HD catheters. Probably, the high event rate at 90 days of follow-up was due to the usage of short-term HD catheters (I presume).

2. The same analysis also applies to CVCs (short-term versus long-term). In this regard, the authors report a high CRBSI rate. Again, probably this may be related to the use of short-term CVC and HD catheters.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'