Reviewer's report

Title: Totally implantable venous access devices: analysis of different insertion techniques and predictors of complications in 796 devices implanted in a single institution

Version: 3  Date: 30 October 2013

Reviewer: Evangelos Perdikakis

Reviewer's report:

Report:
General Impression: Retrospective series that supports the fact that ultrasound guided technique is the safest option for TIVAD insertion, with the lowest rates of immediate complications. The article has several structural (missing sections/meanings) and syntax/grammar errors and requires major revision.

Points that require major compulsory revisions:
1. Type of TIVAD missing. Single type used in all patients? This is important to be reported since different types may influence the study design and results.
2. Limitations section missing
3. Discrepancy between discussion section (too short: 5 paragraphs) and the previous sections (Introduction/Materials/methods/results/conclusion: 16 paragraphs)
4. References do not follow a certain style

Points that require minor Essential Revisions:
1. Needs language corrections and should be extensively edited before being published.
2. There are substantial syntax/typographical errors that require correction.

In order to help the authors I am including the following:

Introduction section:

a. In general... (syntax error)
b. Late complications include instead of includes
c. ‘Continuous practice ..... life threatening complications.’ Please use correct English syntax in this phrase
d. ‘The aim of this study ....... a special focus on ultrasound guided implantation technique.’ Too long sentence - please rephrase using correct English.

Study design:

a. The main tumor types: please add breast cancer as you have included in the table
b. body habits. Please rephrase
Data collection and follow-up:
a. Needs editing
b. Patients’ satisfaction or complaints about the device were also recorded. Where is that in the manuscript? It is not reported clearly.
c. anesthesiologist, I would recommend the more correct English term anaesthesiologist

“Blind” percutaneous technique:
a. ‘The first access site was …… for the insertion.’ Please omit underline and rephrase using correct English.

Ultrasound guided percutaneous technique:
Too long description. This is a well known technique. Please shorten appropriately

Results:
Clinical outcome:
a. ‘The cost…..table 4’ please rephrase using correct English
b. Last paragraph: did not require instead of did not required
c. The cost of the procedure is mentioned but the difference and benefit among the methods is not explained.

Discussion:
a. Moreover: too many times used in the manuscript. I would suggest appropriate synonyms
b. 1st paragraph of discussion: Therefore…rate. Needs editing
c. 2nd paragraph of discussion: In our series…. anatomical structures. Missing words - needs editing
d. 3rd paragraph. Please use one full-stop, please correct English especially in last sentence.
e. last paragraph. Please rephrase from Moreover…heparin. Missing words and meaning.

Conclusion: Please correct
a. the results demonstrate
b. technique and
c. a real time

References:
Please see above comment

Tables-Figures
Table1: follow up completed (please add this in the main text and explain it accordingly), Hb I suggest correcting numbers
Points that require Discretionary Revisions:

It would be valuable for the readers to be informed on the infection microorganisms that were isolated on the author’s series. This would strengthen the article. In addition, it is reported in the literature that patients with hematologic malignancies are more prone to infection and TIVAD extraction. Did the authors observe this?

Adding some radiologic/clinical figures from the complications encountered would also strengthen the value of the study.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'