

Abstract

Introduction: Optimal venous access to the patient is essential for most medical and diagnostic procedures. Peripheral venous catheters are currently allowed to be inserted by registered nurses in patients older than 3 years in the Czech Republic. Central venous catheters are inserted exclusively by a physician. Other current options (LPC, midline, PICC) are increasingly involving nurses. To their education and training must be given great attention. Therefore, we decided to analyse the current situation in two selected Prague University hospitals.

Objective: To map the situation in the teams involved in the insertion of vascular accesses in two university hospitals, especially in the area of the status and education of nurses who insert venous accesses.

Respondents and methods: We contacted members of the PICC team from large Prague university hospitals, including the founders of the only training center for PICC and midline catheter insertion under ultrasound guidance in the Czech Republic. Data collection was carried out by semi-structured interview method. Segmentation and coding methods were used for data processing.

Results: The identified categories - patient care, education, organization and management, and expert - are the main pillars to obtain proficiency in the insertion of PICC and midline catheters in a single national course. The results further highlighted the need for further course development as well as the need to support the establishment of venous insertion teams.

Conclusion: The support of the physician is crucial for the existence and functioning of the PICC team. The role of the nurses is to convince the physicians through their work that they have sufficient theoretical knowledge and technical skills to perform these activities. Adequate theoretical knowledge, training in ultrasonography, and routine insertion of venous inputs allow nurses to form the majority of the PICC team, which would contribute to reducing the number of physicians.